

FIVE COLLEGE
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Affiliate of the Elderhostel Institute Network

Special Programs

Spring 2009

Five College Learning in Retirement
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Descriptions of 5CLIR Special Programs for Spring Semester 2009

NOTE: Watch the monthly *5CLIR Reporter/Newsleaflet* issues for specific dates, times & locations for the following and additional Special Programs throughout the year. Contact the facilitators of the individual Special Programs for further information.

Friday Morning Lectures & Encore Presentations – 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle St (Rte 47). Based on the success of the 2008 Lecture Series, the Special Programs Committee is sponsoring a series of lectures and encore presentations for the 2009 Spring Semester on Friday mornings. The encore presentations are based on past seminar presentations that 5CLIR members have suggested would be of interest to the general membership. This series is facilitated by **Larry Ambs**, who can be contacted.

Friday, February 13th, Chuck Gilles will do a Centenary Presentation on “**Abraham Lincoln – Then and Now**”. 2009 is the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. No President in American history has been so relevant for modern times. The 2008 election was a watershed in American racial history – any study of the background of this issue must of necessity involve Lincoln. Current concern about presidential leadership and, especially the War Powers, begins with a study of Lincoln in the Civil War. Issues of states’ rights throughout our history must take into account the high point of states right’s agitation in Lincoln’s time.

Friday, February 20th, Joel Halpern on “**American Diplomacy, Public and Private (Secret) Faces, An Indochina Perspective**” It is, of course, not difficult to understand the essential need for private conversations in planning foreign policy in a given administration and between diplomats each representing or trying to represent what they perceive as their respective best interests. However, when the relationships in question are those between a great imperial power, the U.S. and a small and relatively new country, questions of strategy, tactics employed and overall moral dilemmas arise. Beginning in the 1950s these matters assumed center stage. American policy in Laos is now forgotten but at one time Kennedy had a map of Laos on his office wall. In the intervening years Secret Presidential office papers of Kennedy and Johnson have been declassified as have those of the Department of Defense and State Department. This secret correspondence reveals a sense of innate unquestioned authority on the part of the U.S. officials charged with the implementation of our policy which was in direct contrast with the publicly professed aims of American policy.

Friday, March 13th, “POETRY – LIVE!” Sue Case and Wil Hastings are two 5CLIR poets who have just had “chapbooks” (small books) of poems published by the poetry press. Join them and their poet guests (still secret) on one of our late-Winter Friday mornings (date to be announced) to hear poetry and some loose talk about making poems. Full audience participation expected!

Stay tuned – for three additional Friday Lecture or Encore Presentation events before Great Decisions starts March 27th.

Arts Interest Group – **Honoré David, Facilitator** - This group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 114 of the UMASS Continuing Ed Building on Venture Way (just off North Maple Street) in Hadley. (Please note: the January 22nd event is in Room 113 at the same venue.) This group presents programs about all of the arts – painting, sculpture, architecture, dance, theater, etc., and welcomes 5CLIR members who might wish to share their knowledge and/or skills in one or more of the arts. Contact Honoré.

January 22 – **Ranjana Devi** – Director Asian Arts, UMass – Japanese puppets, Chinese Acrobats and more.

Andrea Assaf - Director – New World Theater U Mass- 30th anniversary programs of this visionary cultural institution.

February 26 – **Larry Siddall Two Years in Poland** – a memoir and how it came together.

Chena River Marblers – Amherst – marbling books, photo albums, jewelry and ties and how they do it.

March 26 – **Robert Floyd** - Photojournalist

Stan Sherrer – Art photography

April 23 – **Thad Dabrowski** – evoking meaningful art from college students

May 28 – **Wunderarts** – Amherst – Nora and Tony Maroulis

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Viewpoints - **Hy Edelstein, Facilitator** – This group 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. “Viewpoints” 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.

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LIR Book Interest Group – **Sheila Klem, Facilitator** – This group meets 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. They read a variety of contemporary fiction and non-fiction, as well as literary classics. The present group is full and cannot take any more members, but if you are interested in starting a second 5CLIR Book Group, please contact Gail Gaustad, Chair of the Special Programs Committee.

Ethnic Eating Interest Group – Joice Gare, Facilitator - This group meets once a month at a local restaurant which features food from another country. Each meeting is coordinated by a different group member who chooses the restaurant, selects the menu and arranges with staff for someone to talk to us about the food, culture and country their establishment represents. If you have questions, contact Joice.

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French Conversation – Judith Pool, Facilitator – This group meets every Friday afternoon, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 114, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off North Maple Street, Hadley. This is a group of 5CLIR members who enjoy speaking and learning French. They meet pretty much year round; watch the *5CLIR Reporter/Newsleaflet* for Fridays when they will not meet. Please contact Judith for more information or to check dates.

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Travel Interest Group – Syma & Philippe Meyer, Facilitators – This group meets the third Thursday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the large conference room, Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence. 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 the money) necessary. The Travel Interest Group will provide an opportunity for travelers to share their knowledge, experience and pleasure with those who so far have only dreamed of going. Syma will be your host and Philippe will provide technical assistance, if necessary, to put your pictures in the “machine-readable” format appropriate for the computer and the excellent projection facilities at HVES. The atmosphere is quite informal, and there is no other obligation (well, unless you are one of the speakers!) than to come and listen to the speaker(s) of the day, when and if you feel interested in the subjects. For further information, contact Philippe and Syma.

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Wisdom Seekers’ Knitting Circle – Susan Gerstle, Facilitator – This group meets on the third Thursday of each month, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Susan’s home, 35 New South Street, Northampton. This monthly interest group is an outgrowth of last year’s seminar, “The Wisdom Shuttle,” and resulted in an interesting sharing of the participants’ stories on their journey to become “wise.” This group provides an opportunity for discussion and the sharing and exploring of “what makes us wise,” while doing hands-on piece-work. These are informal meetings that expect to continue year-round. For further information, contact Susan. The group is full for at the moment, but you may ring the office to put your name on the waiting list. People do drop out!

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Great Decisions – Roger Coulombe, Chair 2009 Committee. Lectures are on five Fridays in March and April, venue to be announced in the spring.

Every year spring comes back and you feel rejuvenated. Every year you decide that now is the time you are going to do something to change the world for you, for your kids and for your grandchildren.

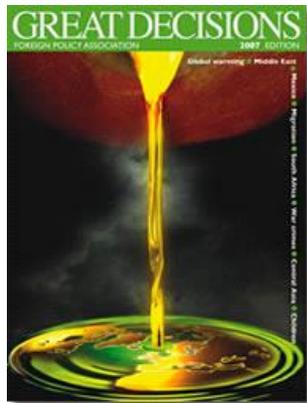
What about sharing in the 5CLIR program based on the Foreign Policy Association “Great Decisions” Series? Year after year for more than ten years it offers in the March–April timeframe a few dozen 5CLIR members, joined by a nearly equal number of participants from the general public, to redraw the world as it should be.

The “Great Decisions” committee will keep you informed on the plans, subjects and speakers for 2009 through the newsletter, the website and through emails (“snail mail” if required or requested).

The 2008 edition has been considered by some “the best ever” and the 2009 edition will most certainly top it. Keep your Friday mornings of March and April 2009 penciled in for these lectures where you, the audience, play the most important role by animating the Q and A’s session which follows the Foreign Policy Association video and the guest speaker presentation.

More information is available and will be updated periodically at the Foreign Policy Association website: www.fpa.org.”

— Philippe Meyer, Chair, Great Decisions Committee, 2007 & 2008.



Special Event: Saturday, May 2, 2009

VISIT TO THE PLIMOTH PLANTATION, Plymouth, Massachusetts

Plimoth Plantation brings history to life in a fun and interactive setting. The people you will meet are costumed role players who have taken on the names, viewpoints and life histories of the people who actually lived in the colony in 1627. Your visit is self-guided, so feel free to wander around the village at your own pace. At Plimoth Plantation and aboard the Mayflower II, visitors enter a living re-creation of America's past.

7:30 a.m. Leave Big Y parking lot in Amherst

8:00 a.m. Leave Sheldon Field park and ride lot on Bridge Street in Northampton

10:30 a.m. Arrive at Plimoth Plantation

Lunch available there or take your own.

2:30 p.m. Depart for the Mayflower II

4:00 p.m. Depart for home

Short rest stop

6:30 p.m. Approximate time of arrival in Northampton

7:00 p.m. Approximate time of arrival in Amherst

Rest room available on the bus.

Price: \$68.00 payable to 5CLIR Office, Mason Hall, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01061 by Friday, April 3, 2009.

Note: Open to LIR membership plus one guest per member.

Contact person: Doris Holden