

*Five College
Learning in Retirement*

*Spring 2013
Seminar & Workshop
Catalog*

February 25th – May 13th



9 Mason Hall, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063

5clir@smith.edu www.5clir.org

413 - 585-3756

Affiliate of the Elderhostel network

Five College

Learning in Retirement

9 Mason Hall, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063

November 18, 2012

To the Members and Prospective Members of Five College Learning in Retirement:

The Curriculum Committee of Five College Learning in Retirement is delighted to present this catalog of seminars for the spring 2013 term. Committee members and seminar moderators have worked together over the past several months to develop a curriculum that we believe reflects our members' broad range of interests. We hope that you agree and that you find among these offerings seminars that excite and challenge both heart and mind.

Our peer-led seminars and workshops are the center of the 5CLIR program and their success depends on the quality of each member's participation. In seminars, each participant is responsible for researching and making one presentation and for taking an active part in all discussions. In workshops, participants engage in active learning, often through hands-on activities; sometimes these activities are paired with presentations.

5CLIR has an extensive inventory of audio/visual equipment that members may reserve to use in their seminar presentations. Any expenses such as texts, DVD/VCR rentals, photocopies, or artistic supplies are the responsibility of the participants.

Participants may sign up for as many seminars/workshops as they wish. Please review the schedule to ensure you do not register for 2 seminars held at the same time.

The Committee would like to thank the members who have volunteered to moderate the 22 seminars and workshops to be offered in the spring. Without their creativity and dedication, we would not have the variety and quality that you find in these pages.

Members of the 2012–2013 Curriculum Committee

Term Ending 30 June 2013

Dorothy Gorra
Ruth Hooke
Ruth Kosiorek
Ellen Peck
Pete Reitt

Term Ending 30 June 2014

Anne Lombard
Don Maiocco
Ray Moore
Betsy Siersma (took Ivan Kovacs' place)

Term ending 30 June 2015

June Guild
Larry Gutlerner
Sheila Klem
Richard Szlosek

Carol Jolly, Co-Chair
Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chair

Summary of Seminars – Spring Semester 2013

Please check seminar times and any NOTES!

Monday Mornings (10:00–12:00 unless otherwise specified)

Science, Technology and Invention in the Gilded Age – John & Lise Armstrong – SC: *Common Room, Dewey Hall* [NOTE: seminar meets 9:30–11:30]

Say Cheese... – Syma Meyer & Ellen Kosmer – *Chez Meyer, Amherst (directions will be given)*
[NOTE: this is an 8-week seminar and begins on 11 March]

Monday Afternoons (1:30–3:30 unless otherwise specified)

China Confronts the Modern World – Rich Hamilton & Hy Edelstein – SC: *Room 308, Lilly Hall (Smith School for Social Work), corner of Green Street and West Street*
[NOTE: no seminar 8 April; snow date May 13]

Writing to Remember (Blue Section) – Henny Lewin & Steffi Schamess – *Lilly Library, 19 Meadow Street, Florence* [NOTE: no seminar 15 April; snow date May 13]

“Books That Shaped America” – Dottie Rosenthal – *1st-floor meeting room, Applewood at Amherst, One Spencer Drive* [Note: please park on Spencer Drive, not in parking lot!]

The Lure & Lore of Precious Metals: Gold, Silver & Platinum – Jim Scott – *Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst (Route 116)*
[NOTE: no seminar 15 April; snow date 13 May]

The Way We Live Now by Anthony Trollope – Claire Sherr – *Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop, 100 Bassett Brook Drive*

Tuesday Mornings (9:30–11:30 unless otherwise specified)

US Presidents from 1900... – Steve Gross – *TBA*

The Columbian Exchange – Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 – Larry Ambs – *UMass: Transit Facility, north end Commonwealth Avenue, on right, before Governor’s Drive (park free in the adjacent Lot 45; directions will be given)*

Music for Mourning – John Gaustad & Laura Cranshaw – *The Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop*

Tuesday Afternoons (2:00–4:00 unless otherwise specified)

18th- and 19th-Century Western Philosophy – Julius Menn & Hy Edelstein – *Amherst Media (previously ACTV), 246 College Street (Route 9, towards Belchertown)*

Quilting Culture: A Beginners Workshop – Adrienne Andrews – *Library, Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton*
[NOTE: this is an 8-week workshop and begins on 12 March]

Wednesday Mornings (10:00–12:00 unless otherwise specified)

History and Culture of Iran – Jim Harvey – SC: Common Room, Dewey Hall

[NOTE: seminar meets 9:30–11:30]

Exploring Retirement – Betsy Loughran & Nina Scott – “*The Piano Room*,” Amherst Woman’s Club, 35 Triangle Street, Amherst

Meet the James Boys – Madison and Monroe That Is – Rich Szlosek – “*The Dining Room*,” Amherst Woman’s Club, 35 Triangle Street, Amherst

The Novels of Orhan Pamuk – Ellen Peck – 3rd-floor conference room, Loomis Retirement Village, 20 Bayon Drive, South Hadley (off Rte 116)

George Bernard Shaw, Socialist and Dramatist, II – Michael Wolff – 1st-floor meeting room, Applewood at Amherst, Spencer Dr [Note: please park on Spencer Drive, not in parking lot!]

Wednesday Afternoons (1:30–3:30 unless otherwise specified)

Harold Pinter – Ed Golden – 1st-floor meeting room, Applewood at Amherst, One Spencer Drive

[Note: please park on Spencer Drive, not in parking lot!]

Contemporary American Poets, Selected – Katharine Hazen & Anne Lombard – *The Library*, Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton

[Note: seminar meets 2:00–4:00]

Thursday Mornings (9:30–11:30 unless otherwise specified)

Camus at 100 – Michael Greenebaum – TBA

Writing to Remember (Red section) – Zina Tillona & Ellen Peck – *Grace Church* (in the “Connector,” the new addition), 14 Boltwood Avenue (by The Commons), Amherst

[NOTE: Seminar begins 7 March; meets *chez Zina* 9 May; snow date 16 May]

Exploring the Amazon – Joan Wofford – *The Meeting House*, Northampton Lathrop, Shallowbrook Lane, off Bridge Road

NOTE: Every seminar has space reserved for an 11th week which may or may not be used to compensate for a snow day or a holiday that falls on a day the seminar usually meets.

SC – Smith College UMass – UMass Transit Center (on campus)

While every effort is made to adhere to the schedule as published here, occasionally changes must be made at the request of a hosting institution, but you will be advised immediately of any altered arrangements.

There are no seminars on Thursday afternoons or Fridays.

Spring 2013 Seminar Catalog

Seminars begin the week of 25 February 2013

MONDAY MORNING

Science, Technology and Invention in the Gilded Age

Moderators: John and Elizabeth Armstrong

Role of participants: Traditional seminar style: 30- to 40-minute presentation followed by discussion

Number of participants (including the moderators): 17

Time: Monday mornings, 9:30–11:30 (Note earlier time)

Place: Common Room, Dewey Hall, Smith College

Parking: You will be issued a Smith campus parking permit

Between 1876 and 1926 there was an explosion of pure and applied science and invention. Key figures include (in order of birth) Pasteur, Lister, Lord Rayleigh, Koch, Roentgen, Edison, Hertz, Diesel, the Curies, the Wright brothers, Marconi, Einstein, Bohr, Fleming, Moseley, Schroedinger. It was a time of vast social and political changes and upheavals, but these men and women collectively had as much or more to do with shaping the modern world as any group of statesmen or writers. Much of the science and technology of the Gilded Age is now easily understood and communicated.

We will proceed in roughly historical order; participants will choose a particular scientist or inventor to report on from a list provided by the moderators. We hope that, in some cases, the presenter will choose to cover both the technical and non-technical highlights of the individual's life. If a participant wishes to deal only with the non-technical aspects of 'the life and times,' one of the moderators will briefly fill in the technical details in accessible terms. If a participant wishes to choose someone not on the list provided, a brief consultation with the moderators will be appropriate. The moderators will provide a starter-list of resources.

Format: Primarily participant presentations by lecture, videos, photos, demonstrations, etc.

Resources: Lists of internet and print resources will be provided.

The moderators: John has moderated numerous seminars in the fields of science and math. John and Elizabeth together moderated a seminar on natural disasters some years ago.

Say Cheese... - CLOSED

Moderators: Syma Meyer and Ellen Kosmer

Role of participants: Choose a cheese they especially like and tell us everything there is to know about it.

Number of participants (including the moderators): 10

Time: Monday mornings, 10:00–12:00; Note: An 8-week seminar, starts 11 March

Place: Chez Meyer, Amherst (directions will be given)

Parking: Ample parking on site

Learn, try and love everything cheeses!

During the seminar we'll learn all about cheeses: where they come from, how they are made, how they are stored, how they are cooked (or not), which wines to accompany them and above all how to enjoy eating them.

Samples will be served and tested.



Format: Very informal seminar.

Resources: Cheeses!!

The moderators: Syma, who hails from France, is a self-confessed cheese foodie. Ellen loves to cook and has travelled extensively in Italy and France sampling cheeses, wines and delicious regional dishes.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

China Confronts the Modern World -- CLOSED

Moderators: Richard Hamilton and Hy Edelstein

Role of participants: Prepare and present report of 25–30 minutes & lead discussion.

Number of participants (including the moderators): 14

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30–3:30; Note: no seminar 8 April; snow date 13 May

Place: Room 308, Lilly Hall, Smith College, corner of Green St and West St

Parking: You will be issued a Smith campus parking permit

China from revolution to modernity

Napoleon once said that China is a sleeping dragon; when it awakes, the world will be what: Amazed? Surprised? Sorry? China now confronts the modern world with the end of dynastic government and the ongoing revolution. This seminar will examine some of the critical topics in China's century-long effort to reject western and Japanese exploitation and humiliation, and to take its rightful place of respect and power in the modern world. This struggle began with the overthrow of more than 2000 years of traditional dynastic government in the Revolution of 1911–12 and continues to this day as China embraces modernism. Some of the topics we will examine are concerned with the legacy of

imperialism, the Revolution of 1911–12 and the many crises that followed down the decades of the 20th century, such as ideological competition between the Nationalists and the Communists; civil war and war with Japan; Communist victory and its many crises; China after Maoism: Tiananmen Square and the economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping and the ongoing revolution: Whither China *vis-à-vis* the world?

Format: Recommended readings, selections from relevant films, some shown during class time; and participant presentations and discussion.

Resources: For background and ongoing reference: John Bryan Starr, *Understanding China* (Hill and Wang, 3rd ed., 2010). There may be future reading suggestions as I continue my research on current literature.

The moderators: Rich taught a course in modern East Asian history for more than 20 years at H.C.C. Hy is an experienced, long-time moderator in LIR.

Writing to Remember (Blue Section) -- CLOSED

Moderators: Henny Lewin and Steffi Schamess

Role of participants: To prepare and present two original pieces

Number of participants (including moderators): 12

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30–3:30; NOTE: no seminar 15 April; snow date 13 May

Place: Lilly Library, 19 Meadow Street, Florence

Parking: Ample parking on site

Writing Your Own Story (see also Thursday morning)

“Whatever we call the form – autobiography, memoir, personal history, family history –writing about one’s life is a powerful human need. Who doesn’t want to leave behind some record of his or her accomplishments, thoughts and emotions? If it’s a family history it will have the further value of telling your children and your grandchildren who they are and what heritage they came from.

“Writers are the custodians of memory, and memories have a way of dying with their owner. One of the saddest sentences I know is, ‘I wish I had asked my mother about that’.” (*Writing About Your Life*, by William Zinsser). You’ll enjoy writing about your life, as well as hearing the stories of other people’s lives, when you join our seminar.

Format: Each participant has two opportunities to read aloud from his or her prepared texts during the semester. Sometimes these texts are distributed in advance (often via e-mail), allowing more time for discussion. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help to make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

The moderators: Henny taught Hebrew and Yiddish and received a Covenant Award as an Outstanding Jewish Educator in North America. She is a Holocaust child-survivor working on her autobiography with the encouragement of this seminar’s participants. Steffi has been writing autobiographical material, fiction, and non-fiction essays since retiring from teaching at Hampshire College, and participated in the Writing to Remember seminar for several semesters.

“Books That Shaped America” - CLOSED

Moderator: Dorothy Rosenthal

Role of participants: Select a book from the Library of Congress list of “Books That Shaped America,” read it, and present it to the group. Lead a discussion on how the book did or did not shape America.

Number of participants (including the moderator): 16–18

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30–3:30

Place: One Spencer Drive, Applewood at Amherst

*Parking: Ample parking on site: **please park on Spencer Drive, not in car park!***

The Library of Congress list of “Books That Shaped America”

In 2012, the Library of Congress opened an exhibit, “Books That Shaped America,” in hopes of sparking “a national conversation on books and their importance in shaping our nation.” The 88 books on the list (to be augmented by another 12 in 2013) are not intended as a list of the “best” American books, but ones that “shaped American’s views of their world and often the world’s views of the United States.”

The list begins with Ben Franklin’s book describing his experiments with electricity (1751) and ends with *The Words of Cesar Chavez* (2002). In between are books of political and historical nonfiction, famous novels, children’s literature, autobiographies, poetry, and “how-to” books.

For this seminar, participants will select one book from the list and discuss the ways in which it has shaped American history, thought, culture, or national conscience. We will discuss whether we agree or disagree with its inclusion in the list.

The Library of Congress encourages all Americans to think of other books that shaped America and share their choices through the exhibit’s web site. As the culmination of our seminar, we will submit a list of our suggestions to the web site.

To see the titles on the Library of Congress list, go to www.loc.gov/exhibits, pick up a copy at the preview on November 18, or call the moderator to have one mailed to you.

Format: Reports on books followed by discussion.

Resources: The Library of Congress list of “Books That Shaped America” is available on line. In addition, the moderator will provide a list of books suggested by the Library in conjunction with the exhibit.

The moderator: Dottie, who has moderated over a dozen seminars for 5CLIR, recently toured the exhibit at the Library of Congress.

The Lure & Lore of Precious Metals: Gold, Silver & Platinum

Moderator: Jim Scott

Role of participants: Research a report, make a presentation and lead a discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 17

*Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30–3:30; **NOTE: no seminar 15 April; snow date 13 May***

Place: Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St, Amherst

Parking: Ample parking on site

The nature of precious metals and their impact on society

Participants in this seminar will investigate what has made the lure of precious metal so fascinating throughout human history. First, what is the nature of these metals, their chemistries, that makes them “precious”? Although these metals are relatively rare, there are many more elements that are rarer. Nations and empires have literally gone to the ends of the earth to extract these metals from their hiding places.

Learn about the fascinating stories of the Cerro Rico of Potosí, the Comstock Lode and the alluvial deposits of the California Gold Rush and how these metals are transformed from ore of the earth to the beautiful metallic objects of value and adoration. Fortunes have been won and lost in these quests.

Once obtained, these metals are put to many fascinating uses. Artistically, they have been fashioned into every form of jewelry and ornaments of great beauty in almost every culture. Throughout history, why have gold and silver been the metals of currency among nations? In recent decades the unique properties of these precious metals have found applications in electronics (conductivity), medicine (dentistry), petroleum (catalysts) and optics (glass coatings), to name a few. Come and learn about these metals and their lore, fact and fiction, and their continued appeal in our own lives.

Format: Research, presentation and discussion

Resources: There are materials available in local libraries and on the internet to inform the participant about the history, art, applications, nature and uses of gold, silver & platinum, and how societies have related to these unusual metals.

The moderator: Jim, an LIR member for over a decade, has moderated more than a dozen seminars on topics ranging from science (“The Sixty Years that Shook Physics” and “The Secret Life of Lobsters”) to history (“Lewis & Clark Expedition” and “Voyages of Discovery”) to social change in “*Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer.*”

The Way We Live Now by Anthony Trollope

Moderator: Claire Sherr

Role of participants: All the chapters will be discussed; participants will be assigned chapters

Number of participants (including the moderator): 16

Time: Monday afternoons, 2:00–4:00 (Note later time)

Place: Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop, 100 Bassett Brook Drive

Parking: Ample parking on site

A powerful discussion and dissection of life in England in the 1870s

The Way We Live Now is Trollope's most powerful portrait of England in the 1870s. It is his greatest novel, written at the peak of his career. Many of the things he describes resonate strongly with our own culture right now in the 21st century. His people are alive and kicking and full of surprises. We feel for them and with them, and learn a lot!

Various biographies will be discussed in the seminar.

Format: Discussions of assigned chapters and possibly biographical material if of interest.

Resources: Anthony Trollope, *The Way We Live Now*, Oxford University Press, 2008.

The moderator: Claire, who has moderated numerous LIR seminars, has read nearly every one of Trollope's 50 novels and loved all of them.

TUESDAY MORNING

U.S. Presidents from 1900 on: Domestic Policies, Politics and Personality

Moderator: Steve Gross

Role of participants: Prepare report and lead discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 12

Time: Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:30

Place: TBA

Parking: Obtain free permit for Alumni Lot from Campus Safety

Examining US Presidents in terms of their policies, political acumen, and personality

Each participant will select a US President (1900 on) and give a 30-minute presentation. The presentation will examine the president's domestic and foreign policies by outlining the historical context in which the president functioned and his vision for the country. Participants will also explore how they perceived the president's personality and conservative–liberal leanings influencing domestic policies.

Format: Discussion.

Resources: William A. Degregorio: *The Complete Book of US Presidents*, 7th edition, Gramercy Books.

The moderator: Steve Gross is interested in understanding how situations, personality and chance combine to influence major historical figures, and how policies and laws evolve.

The Columbian Exchange – Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 -- CLOSED

Moderator: Larry Ambs

Role of participants: prepare a brief presentation and lead discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 17

Time: Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:30

Place: UMass Transit Facility, north end Commonwealth Ave, on right, before Governor's Drive

Parking: Park free in adjacent Lot 45; directions will be given

Examine the impact of Columbus' visit to the Americas from the perspective of the Old World and the New World

The so-called "Columbian Exchange" was a wide-encompassing exchange of animals and plants, cultural ideas, people (including slaves), and diseases between the Eastern and Western hemispheres. With the coming of Christopher Columbus to the Americas in 1492 came the era of large-scale contact between the Old and New Worlds that culminated in an ecological revolution – hence the name "Columbian Exchange."

Every society on earth has been exposed to the ramifications of this “exchange” in both good ways and bad. We will consider the anthropology, epidemiology, ecology and history of this event from the perspective of both the Old and New Worlds.

Format: Traditional: presentation and discussion.

Resources: Participants are expected to read one of the following books: Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., *The Columbian Exchange—Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, Greenwood Press, 1972; Marshall C. Eakin, *The History of Latin America – Collisions of Cultures*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007; Charles C. Mann, *1493 – Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2011.

The moderator: Larry is particularly interested in all aspects of the Americas.

Music for Mourning - CLOSED

Moderators: John Gaustad & Laura Cranshaw

Role of participants: Select a musical work, prepare a brief introduction, select excerpts to be listened to, and lead a short discussion afterwards

Number of participants (including the moderators): 18



Time: Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:30

Place: The Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop

Parking: Ample parking on site

Requiems and other choral music honoring the dead

The word “Requiem” refers to a mass celebrated in the Catholic Church for the repose of the soul of a deceased person, particularly a musical setting of such a mass. The term is also applied to other musical compositions associated with death and mourning, even when they lack religious or liturgical relevance.

Many composers have produced requiems. Among the more famous in the standard form are those by Berlioz, Verdi, Mozart, and Faure. Brahms wrote one on a Lutheran text. Britten’s *War Requiem* includes nine poems about war, and that of Jenkins intersperses five haiku. Remembering the dead is of course not limited to the Christian tradition. Bernstein’s *Symphony No. 3* is titled “Kaddish”, and Beveridge’s *Yizkor Requiem* interweaves elements common to the Jewish and Roman Catholic liturgies.

In this seminar we will listen to and discuss several of these musical works, and others chosen by the participants. Each session will consist of about 30 minutes of music, plus an introduction by the presenter, who will also lead a brief ensuing discussion.

Format: Listening to music and discussion.

Resources: CDs in possession of the moderators or obtained from local libraries.

The moderators: John Gaustad has enjoyed classical choral music all his life, both as a listener and a participant. Laura Cranshaw has enjoyed singing choral music all *her* life, including many of the Requiems, and has led four LIR seminars in Choral Music.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

18th- and 19th-Century Western Philosophy - CLOSED

Moderators: Julius Menn and Hy Edelstein

Role of participants: Make a presentation and lead group discussion

Number of participants (including moderators): 12–15

Time: Tuesday afternoons, 2:00–4:00

Place: Amherst Media (previously ACTV), 246 College Street (Route 9), Amherst

Parking: Ample parking on site

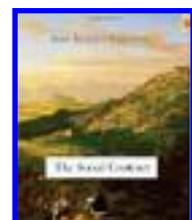
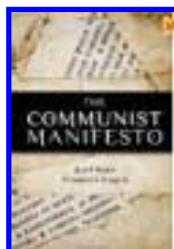
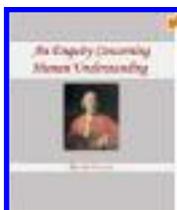
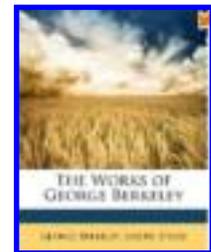
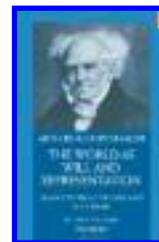
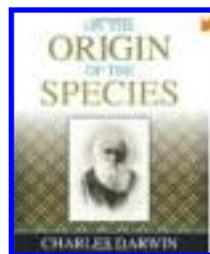
Major thinkers of the 18th and 19th century

We are particularly interested in the philosophers of the 18th and 19th centuries who anticipated modern democratic societies. Members will select from our list, or on their own, a leading philosopher of the designated period; discuss their major thoughts and contributions to western culture, education, thought, political and moral philosophy, deductive and inductive reasoning, evolution and religion. We suggest the following list to select from: 1) George Berkeley, 2) Voltaire, 3) David Hume, 4) Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 5) Immanuel Kant, 6) Jeremy Bentham, 7) Georg Hegel, 8) Arthur Schopenhauer, 9) John Stuart Mill, 10) Charles Darwin, 11) Soren Kierkegaard, 12) Friedrich Nietzsche, 13) Karl Marx, 14) William James, 15) Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, 16) Mikhail Bakunin.

Format: Presentations and discussion.

Resources: Suggested readings: 1) Nigel Warburton: *A Little History of Philosophy*, Yale University Press, 2011; 2) Madsen Pirie, *101 Great Philosophers*, MJF Books, NY, 2009; 3) Internet sources (e.g. Wikipedia).

The moderators: Julius, a widely published scientist and international lecturer, is now retired and becoming a humanist. Hy is an LIR member of some 10 years, having moderated a number of seminars, including one on the 18th-century Age of Enlightenment.



Quilting Culture: A Beginners Workshop

Moderator: Adrienne Andrews

Role of participants: Design and produce a small, basic, block style sampler quilt following a step-by-step process as outlined in the assigned text. Prepare a brief report on a quilting style of a culture of their choice.

Number of participants (including the moderator): 6–8

*Time: Tuesday afternoons, 2:00–4:00; **NOTE: workshop is 8 weeks long; begins 12 March***

Place: Library, Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Rd, Northampton

Parking: Ample parking on site

Hands-on and cross-cultural exploration of the art and craft of quilt-making

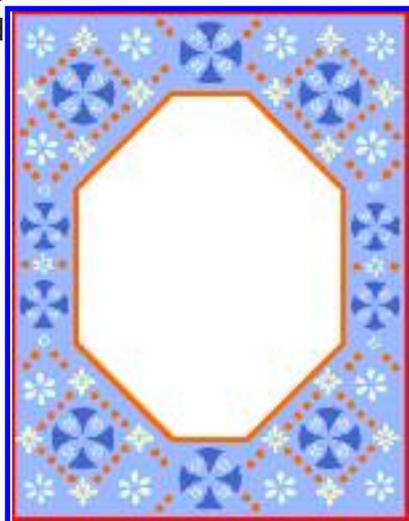
One would be hard-pressed to find a culture that did not have some form of textile or fiber art, either functional or decorative (usually both), in its repertoire. In this workshop participants will acquire and develop their skills in the lively art and craft of quilting. While designed for beginners, experienced quilters are more than welcome to participate. The seminar is for both hand-quilters and machine-quilters.

In this hands-on workshop we will not only design and craft our individual quilts in a step-by-step process, we will also explore the meaning of quilts in cross-cultural perspective; the similarities and differences in styles, techniques, materials, and purposes of this art form. Each participant will also have an opportunity to share the meaning of quilts and quilt-making in a culture of their choice by giving an oral report and/or visual presentation. If you have ever been curious about this art or admired a story quilt or have a family heirloom quilt that has intrigued you for years, come and learn more about the marvelous world of quilts as art and the art of quilting!

Format: Workshop with discussion, occasional videos and readings.

Resources: Laura Ehrlich, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Quilting Basics: Simple, Step-by-Step Instructions for Both Machine and Hand Quilting*, New York: Penguin Publishing, 2011. \$16.95 (available at Barnes and Noble (Hampshire Mall) or Amazon.com)

The moderator: Adrienne is an anthropologist who wants to develop her quilting skills in the company of others who would



like
to do
the

same.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

History and Culture of Iran - CLOSED

Moderator: Jim Harvey

Role of participants: Read the resource book, research and present a topic for approximately 30 minutes and lead the following discussion; join in all discussions.

Number of participants (including the moderator): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 9:30–11:30; NOTE earlier time

Place: Common Room, Dewey Hall, Smith College

Parking: You will be issued a Smith campus parking permit

Understanding Iran

The Persian legacy is a long and rich one, but today's Iran is regularly in the news, rarely in a positive light. Since 1979 it has been considered an enemy. All the more reason to understand it. But few of us have a grasp of Iran's history or culture, despite its important and perhaps dangerous place in the modern Middle East. This seminar intends to address that lack. We will try to get beyond prejudice and rhetoric to attempt to understand this very ancient land and its people.

Presentation topics will deal with such aspects of Iranian life as: history, politics, food, visual arts, textiles, literature, education, religion and the role of women.

Format: Presentation and discussion

Resources: William Polk: *Understanding Iran*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

The moderator: Jim lived in Pakistan for 5 years which sparked a deep interest in the Middle East – evident in the many seminars he has moderated over the last 10 years concerned with the history and culture of other civilizations.

Exploring Retirement

Moderators: Betsy Loughran and Nina Scott

Role of participants: Share their retirement story with the group, then write up the story to be collected in a booklet distributed to the class. Take turns facilitating discussions on one of the retirement topics that the group chooses.

Number of participants (including the moderators): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00–12:00

Place: “The Piano Room,” Amherst Woman’s Club, 35 Triangle Street

Parking: Ample parking on site

A chance to discuss various aspects of the retirement experience

Have you been looking for an opportunity to get to know LIR participants on a more personal basis? To hear some of the fascinating stories that we as elders have to tell? Retirement is one experience that almost all LIR members share. As a group, we were very active during our middle years working, raising children, and supporting our communities. Then comes the retirement party, some version of the “gold watch,” and then what? This seminar will allow participants to share their retirement experiences – both those that have been fulfilling and those that are still problematic.

During the first class, participants will generate a list of topics to discuss. We will then choose eight topics and at least two people will sign up to facilitate a discussion on the topic. For each class, each facilitator will have a half hour to tell their personal retirement story. The two facilitators will then facilitate a discussion on the topic of the day and on the other themes that have come out of the stories. Each pair will be asked to write a short summary of their retirement story. These pieces will be collected in a booklet at the end of the course.

Some possible topics for discussion are:

1. Who are we now that we have given up our careers?
2. How do we handle caretaking duties?
3. Do we downsize or move?
4. What are the gender differences as men and women approach retirement?
5. Finances? What is enough?

Format: Workshop, discussion, writing

Resources: We are still searching for meaningful texts. We might use Robert S. Weiss, *The Experience of Retirement*, or May Sarton, *At Seventy. A Journal*; Carolyn Heilbrun, *The Last Gift of Time*; or Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy, *The President’s Club: Inside the World’s Most Exclusive Fraternity*.

The moderators: Betsy is co-moderating the “Storytelling” seminar this fall, and is experienced in running writing-centered seminars. Nina has also moderated and co-moderated several seminars, including “Don Quixote” and “Mistresses and Lovers.”

Meet the James Boys – Madison and Monroe That Is

Moderator: Richard Szlosek

Role of participants: Prepare a half-hour report and lead subsequent discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 14–16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00–12:00

Place: “The Dining Room,” Amherst Woman’s Club, 35 Triangle Street

Parking: Ample parking on site

The War of 1812 and The Era of Good Feelings

This course will look at American political and social history from 1808–1824. A major topic will be the War of 1812 and also the so-called Era of Good Feelings. We will also discuss the lives of the emerging new leaders such as Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, John Calhoun and J.Q. Adams. We will examine the Indian wars and Native American leaders such as Tecumseh and William Weatherford, the acquisition of Florida, the Hartford Convention and the formulation of the Monroe Doctrine.

Format: Typical seminar format with reports and discussion

Resources: Walter Borneman, *1812 – The War that Forged a Nation*, Harper Books (2005). There are many websites on the War of 1812.

The moderator: Rich Szlosek, a retired attorney, is a three-year member of LIR with degrees in American Studies from Amherst College and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Novels of Orhan Pamuk

Moderator: Ellen Peck

Role of participants: Prepare short reports on various issues and lead discussions

Number of participants (including the moderator): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00–12:00

Place: Loomis Retirement Village, 246 N. Main Street, South Hadley

Parking: Ample parking on site

The novels of Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk

Orhan Pamuk, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature, is a Turkish novelist whose works explore the complex history and modern tensions within his beloved home city Istanbul. We will read four books: *Istanbul* (a memoir and evocation of the city); *My Name is Red* (a complex Renaissance murder mystery focusing on the East/West conflicts about art); *Snow* (a modernists vs conservatives tussle over a concert performer’s wearing of a head scarf); and the newly translated *The Museum of Innocence* (a love story about the personal and cultural preservation of a heritage).

Since this unfamiliar context is vital to the understanding of these novels, we will discuss various historical and cultural as well as literary issues.

Format: Short presentations on various topics relevant to Turkish history and culture, and discussion of the individual novels.

Resources: Orhan Pamuk: *Istanbul*, *My Name is Red*, and *Snow* (in paperback); and *The Museum of Innocence*, which may be still in hard cover.

The moderator: Ellen has traveled to Istanbul and western Turkey, and is fascinated by the art and culture of this part of the world.

George Bernard Shaw, Socialist and Dramatist II

Moderator: Michael Wolff

Role of participants: Prepare a report and lead the subsequent discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 15

Time: Wednesday morning, 10:00–12:00

Place: One Spencer Drive, Applewood at Amherst

*Parking: Ample parking on site; **please park on Spencer Drive, not in the car park!***

Politics and Plays: Shaw's Life and Work II

This seminar was given last semester but we discovered that Shaw's politics and plays were so intriguing that we needed more than one semester (perhaps more than two) to read and discuss him even minimally.

George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950) is best known for his more than 50 plays. In Shaw II, we will read *Heartbreak House*, *Back to Methusaleh*, *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism*, *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*..

He is the only person to have won both a Nobel Prize (for literature in 1925) and an Academy Award (for writing the scenario and dialogue for the 1939 film *Pygmalion* with Leslie Howard, Wendy Hiller, Wilfrid Lawson). He was a co-founder of the London School of Economics and Political Science; the Fabian Society; and the socialist journal *The New Statesman*.

Shaw began his career as a journalist, particularly a music and drama critic (*The Perfect Wagnerite* and *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*). He wrote over a quarter of a million letters to, e.g., the actress Ellen Terry, the boxer Gene Tunney, and H.G. Wells. He once served on the London County Council and wrote many tracts on a variety of topics, e.g., "Imperialism," "Socialism for Millionaires," "The League of Nations."

Format: Readings, reports, and discussion

Resources: Penguin Classics editions, if convenient.

The moderator: A native Londoner and socialist with degrees from Cambridge and Princeton, Michael has led many seminars – including London, George Eliot and Socialism – and has recently begun collecting Shaw 1st editions.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Harold Pinter

Moderator: Ed Golden

Role of participants: Close reading of plays. Emphasis on discussion, with each person leading a discussion of at least one act. Reading aloud of selected scenes by participants.

Number of participants (including the moderator): 15

Time: Wednesday afternoons, 1:30–3:30

Place: One Spencer Drive, Applewood at Amherst

*Parking: Ample parking on site; **please park on Spencer Drive, not in car park!***

Reading and discussion of Harold Pinter's plays

The theater of today would be almost unimaginable without the contribution of Harold Pinter. His plays have startled and captivated audiences worldwide since his debut with *The Birthday Party* in 1958. Only Samuel Beckett can stand beside Pinter as a major groundbreaker in shaping the style and substance of European and American playwrighting for the last 50 years.

Pinter creates people who, as he said, “are on the extreme edge of their living.” In an everyday way of speaking, their dialogue is, as one critic has put it, “eloquent not in what it says but in what his characters hope to avoid having to confront.” Add in the famous Pinter pauses (equally eloquent for the clarity of their silence), comedy as outrageous as it is unmistakably human, suspense and terror managed by a master of subtle theatricality, and I guarantee you will find Mr. Pinter’s world irresistible.

Format: Readings and discussion, with some attention to how these plays might be realized onstage, on film, on TV. A set of questions to serve as a guide for focusing discussion will be provided.

Resources: REQUIRED: *The Essential Pinter: Selections from the work of Harold Pinter*. Grove Press. Biographical and background information as appropriate. Reading list: *The Birthday Party*, *The Caretaker*, *The Homecoming*, *Old Times*, *Celebration*.

I will provide copies of three or four one-act plays that we will read, and that would be somewhat difficult for participants to locate.

RECOMMENDED: *Must You Go?* by Antonia Fraser. Doubleday. This diary by his second wife, an acclaimed historical biographer, provides a fascinating and insightful look at Pinter as playwright, director, actor, social activist, husband and father.

The moderator: Near lifetime spent primarily as a director but also many earlier years as an actor in professional and university theater and thirty-plus years as professor of theater.

Contemporary American Poets, Selected

Moderators: Katharine Hazen & Anne Lombard

Role of participants: Each participant will choose a poet and a group of poems

Number of participants (including the moderators): 8 to 10

Time: Wednesday afternoons, 2:00–4:00 (Note later time)

Place: Library, Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton

Parking: Ample parking on site

Reading poetry out loud, discussing poems

A small group of people will share the reading of a group of poems out loud, two or three times, and discuss their responses, reactions, observations. Each member of the seminar will choose a poet and bring copies of a group of his or her poems to the meeting and we will take turns reading out loud. The pleasures of reading out loud and listening have been pretty much neglected in modern life, though this is one of the most ancient entertainments (and so much more) of our species – think of the mammoth hunters in ice age caves around the fire listening to their bards.

Format: Readings and discussion.

Resources: Poetry books are available at the many libraries in the region, and amazing amounts of poetry are found on the internet.

The moderators: Anne has moderated many seminars, and so has Kathy (just poetry seminars) – both of us are more than willing to help the seminar participants in any way possible.

THURSDAY MORNING

Camus at 100 - CLOSED

Moderator: Michael Greenebaum

Role of participants: Lead discussions of readings; prepare reports on aspects of Camus' life

Number of participants (including the moderator): 15

Time: Thursday mornings, 9:30–11:30

Place: TBA

Parking: Obtain free permit for Alumni Lot at Campus Safety

Works and life of Albert Camus

For me, and I think many in our generation, Albert Camus was the great hero of our early lives. We debated endlessly about the absurd, and thrilled to the idea that we had to create the meaning of our own lives. We admired him as a fierce anti-fascist and an outspoken voice of the French resistance. Many of us had to re-cast our thinking when he turned against Communism and Jean Paul Sartre. We knew that he was fearless, dashing handsome, and always ill with tuberculosis. When he was killed in a car crash, age 46, he became an icon. The question, in his centenary year, is whether his is a voice from the past or a voice for our time.

Few authors' works are intertwined so completely with their lives and their times. Together we will read *The Stranger (The Outsider)*, *The Plague*, *The Fall*, and *Exile and the Kingdom*. Seminar members will lead discussions of these works or give presentations about aspects of Camus' life and thought that particularly relate to them. We will explore the themes of Camus' art, which were also the themes of his political and philosophical writing. He was explicit in putting his fiction in the service of large social and moral issues of the day. Do they serve the large social and moral issues of today?

Format: Readings and discussion

Resources: Albert Camus, *The Stranger*, *The Plague*; *The Fall*; *Exile and the Kingdom*. Robert Zaretsky: *Albert Camus: Elements of a Life*. All of these works are in print and easily available but seminar participants may wish to consider the Everyman's Library omnibus edition (2004, ISBN 1-4000-4255-0) which contains all of them except *The Stranger*. I also urge seminar members to read Robert Zaretsky's *Albert Camus: Elements of a Life* (2010), which will be the basis of much of our discussion.

The moderator: Michael Greenebaum is thrilled that re-reading Camus has provided such rewards.

Writing to Remember (Red Section) - CLOSED

Moderators: Zina Tillona and Ellen Peck

Role of participants: prepare and present two original pieces

Number of participants (including moderators) 12

Time: Thursday mornings, 9:30–11:30

*Place: "The Connector," Grace Church, 14 Boltwood Ave, Amherst
(opposite AJ Hastings, across The Common)*

Parking: On The Common; behind Town Hall; parking garage

Autobiographical writing

(also see Monday afternoons)

Long one of the most popular LIR seminars (previously called "Autobiographical Writing"), Writing to Remember offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other a little better. It is a chance to share your life experiences with fellow LIR members and, at the same time, record them for yourselves and your family.

Many participants have taken advantage of this seminar to write their family story for their children and grandchildren. The writing takes all forms, from rough drafts to polished pieces, and all are welcome. The writer gets feedback and, if desired, the group will offer suggestions for revisions and/or possible additions, as well as clarification. This seminar is not a course in how to write; it aims, rather, to stimulate and encourage you to continue writing your own story. Your writing can center on the events of family life, career experiences, or anything else you would like to tell about yourself.

Format: Each participant has two opportunities to read aloud from his or her prepared texts during the semester. Sometimes these texts are distributed in advance (often via e-mail), allowing more time for discussion. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help to make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

The moderators: Zina has been writing all of her life – papers, reports, memos, legal briefs, nasty letters, etc., etc. – as university professor of Italian, as university administrator and as a practicing lawyer; now she writes for fun about herself and her life journey. Ellen has taught literature at Mount Holyoke College.

Exploring the Amazon - CLOSED

Moderator: Joan Wofford

Role of participants: Prepare a report and lead discussion

Number of participants (including the moderator): 18

Time: Thursday mornings, 9:30–11:30

Place: Northampton Lathrop, Shallowbrook Lane, off Bridge Road

Parking: Ample parking on site

Multiple disciplines that reveal aspects of the Amazon

In recent years, the Amazon River Basin has received much attention because of its rainforest ecosystem and wide diversity of plant and animal life. Although sparsely populated now, it was home to many more people in pre-Columbian times. The adventures of early explorers and present-day eco-tourists are an area of great interest to many.

And, no matter what your interests, the Amazon region has something to offer all armchair explorers, including those who favor archaeology, anthropology, entomology, ornithology, shamanism, zoology and just plain adventurism.

Format: For this seminar you will be expected to select an aspect of the river and/or its basin, research it, and report on it to the group. The moderator will provide a reading list.

Resources: John Hemming, *Tree of Rivers: the Story of the Amazon*, Thames & Hudson, 2008; and Adrian Forsyth and Ken Miyata, *Tropical Nature: Life and Death in the Rain Forests of Central and South America*, Touchstone Book, 1984.

The moderator: An experienced moderator, Joan will have just returned from a trip on the Upper Amazon River.

