

*Five College
Learning in Retirement*

Special Programs

Spring 2013

Five College Learning in Retirement
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Descriptions of 5CLIR Special Programs for Spring Semester 2013

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. All locations noted are subject to change.

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.

Dine Around – Joice Gare, coordinator

Members eat together in a local restaurant, usually a weekday evening, about once a month. Members are expected to take turns making arrangements with the restaurant, setting a date, planning the menu and collecting payment ahead of time. Contact Joice if you are interested in participating and are not already on the Dine Around mailing list. Each participant is welcome to bring one guest.

Travel Interest Group – Joan Wofford, facilitator

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 provides 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. The atmosphere is quite informal, and there is no other obligation (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 Joan.

French Conversation – Judith Pool, facilitator

This is a group of 5CLIR members who enjoy speaking and learning French. They meet on Fridays 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? Would you like to improve your command of the language? Then join Zina and Dean on Fridays when the group discusses, in Italian, a variety of topics chosen by the members of the group. This semester part of each session will be spent in ad lib conversation based on visual prompts.

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

Friday Lectures and Encore Presentations – Larry Ambs and Katy van Geel, facilitators

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 at various locations in our area, usually beginning at 10:00 a.m. Watch for information on specific programs in the monthly newsletter. Contact Larry or Katy with questions.

Book Interest Group – Naomi Yanis, facilitator

This group meets once each month from September through May, from 1:30 to 3:30, on various Friday afternoons, not conflicting with Opera Prep. 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. The choices for the year are made early in the summer, so some of the reading can be done when we tend to have more time for it. Contact Naomi if you are interested in participating.

OPERA PREPARATION - Peg Bedell, Facilitator

A series of HD video productions of operas performed at the Metropolitan Opera is shown at the Hadley Cinemark Theater on Saturday afternoons. In preparation for seeing them, Peg Bedell offers an introduction to each opera and the featured performers on the preceding Friday at 1:30 PM at the Lathrop Northampton Community Room. Anyone interested may attend any session. The operas scheduled for the spring season are Verdi's *Rigoletto* on Feb. 16, with the LIR prep on Feb. 15; Wagner's *Parsifal* on March 2, LIR prep on Mar. 1; Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini* on March 16, LIR prep on March 15 and Handel's *Giulio Cesare* on April 27 and LIR prep on April 26th. For further information, contact Peg.

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.

We will meet once a month at 1:45 to 3:45 on the 3rd or 4th Thursday on the following dates: September 20, October 18, November 15, January 17, February 28, March 21, April 18, and May 16. All but the final meeting will be held in the Commons Room, Dewey Hall, on the Smith campus. For any questions, contact Bobbie Reitt. Newcomers are always welcome.

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.

**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. We select topics based on the interests of our participants. In the past, we have discussed artificial intelligence; the immune system; recent discoveries about the solar system; 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.

We meet four times each semester on the third Thursdays of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop, Bridge Road, in Northampton.

If you have an idea for a Special Program,
please email or call Sara or Diane.

thanks