

AMHERST COLLEGE - HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE - MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE - SMITH COLLEGE - UMASS AMHERST

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
Peer-Led Lifelong Learning



THE 5CLIR NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2021



IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President
Our Members in the News
Tasty Tidbits: Yikes It's Tripel!
Is this YOU? Calling all Moderators
Spring Encore Presentations
Great Decisions 2021
Classic Film Group II
Zoom Help
Council and Committee Chairs
5CLIR Calendar

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LIR friends,

There's a lot to report in our first newsletter of the year, and I commend this issue to your attention. For starters, here are a few questions for your consideration.

Future use of Zoom?

Now that we've gotten accustomed to operating remotely, the question becomes whether or not we should continue to rely on Zoom for any, all, or some of LIR's programs - seminars, meetings, the Open House/Preview, Annual Meeting and the like – once it's safe for closer contact.



If you have ideas and suggestions regarding our future use of Zoom - or for anything else, for that matter - please drop them off in our online Suggestion Box that you will find on the first page of our website. "Future" is the operative word here, I hasten to add, because it looks like Covid conditions will hold sway for numerous months to come.

New name for Learning in Retirement?

(The short answer is *not for now*.) Our Suggestion Box netted twenty-nine thoughtful name change proposals a few months ago, for which I thank you. Council decided in December, though, to retain the list for future reference, while postponing further consideration for the time being. Our plate for 2021, we allowed, was full enough as it is. Blah blah is anybody reading this?

What's coming up for LIR?

Council and Executive Committee will be taking up a number of big-picture issues in the coming months. Foremost among them are: clarifying our organizational structure (especially in regard to committees); updating our Operations Manual; over-hauling the design and maintenance of our website; stepping up our social media presence; and streamlining our accounting system. Think about how you might contribute to these (and other) initiatives. As a peer-led organization, you know, we rely on your energy and ideas to fulfill our worthy mission of life-long learning in community.

All the best,

Nancy



KEEP SENDING US YOUR IDEAS!

OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PROFILES IN RETIREMENT: Carol Jolly



How long have you been a member of Learning in Retirement and how did you learn of the organization?

I joined LIR in the fall of 2007, over 13 years ago. Like so many of our members, I learned of the group through word-of-mouth: Gail Gaustad, with whom I was serving as a volunteer at the Smith Botanic Garden, suggested that I might be interested, so I checked it out and was persuaded that this would be a good fit for me.

What brought you to our "Happy Valley"?

Again, as is so very common among LIR members, my husband and I moved here from the Pacific Northwest to be closer to our grandchildren ... oh, and our children too. We chose this area because of the 5 colleges and our assumption that their presence would offer interesting people, multiple cultural opportunities, and lots of good restaurants.

How is retirement working for you?

Until the pandemic began last March, I fulfilled that cliché about being busier than ever before. Between town committees, the Botanic Garden, and synagogue groups I've found lots of ways to volunteer my time, and as I made new friends, was able to take advantage of all those cultural opportunities and restaurants. Since March, my time seems filled with Zoom meetings, though I have been trying to get outdoors whenever possible.

What have you been reading lately?

It takes me the better part of a week to make my way through my Sunday Times (including doing the crossword). Beyond that, I've been participating in a discussion group on Racism and so have been reading Ibram Kendi's "How to Be an Anti-Racist." Through my Book Group, I've

had the chance to discover books I might not otherwise have known about, such as "The Sun Does Shine" and "Threading my Prayer Rug."

What kinds of seminars have you most enjoyed?

To me, the beauty of LIR is its variety of offerings; I can't say there is any one type of seminar that I've enjoyed the most. I loved the food sampling ones (e.g., Cheeses of the World, 1000 Foods to Eat Before You Die), but was also fascinated by those focused on legal issues (e.g. Women and the Law, Key Supreme Court Decisions). I was delighted to learn how to grow orchids and happy to deepen my knowledge of authors and playwrights (e.g. Wallace Stegner and August Wilson). Lately I've been engrossed with working on my memoir as I co-moderate Writing to Remember.

What is on your bucket list?

My greatest pleasure has come from being able to travel with my whole family. We've gone together to Prince Edward Island, to Costa Rica, and to Hawaii. Once the pandemic is behind us, my bucket list will likely be shaped by the destinations my daughters and granddaughters choose for our future journeys.

Who would you like to imagine around your dinner table?

Assuming no constraints through time, I'd want to gather the many women of courage who have reshaped the world, from Eleanor Roosevelt to Rachel Carson, from Margaret Sanger to Judy Chicago, from Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Kamala Harris.

What else would you like us to know about you?

I have gained so much from this organization: as a member participating in seminars, as part of a group traveling to various destinations (Gettysburg, Public Gardens in Pennsylvania, the Russian Icon Museum), and as a volunteer on several committees. It was gratifying to feel I was giving something back by serving on Council and then as an officer and I found those experiences satisfying too. I am hoping that once we can again gather in person, that I will be able to reconnect with so many of the friends I've made through LIR.

THE BRAVE NEWCOMER: Ben Jaffee



Ben Jaffee came to Amherst in June 2019, having recently retired from his job as an immigration lawyer in Brockton; he and his wife, Mary, lived in Boston for eighteen years. Ben was born in Lynn, MA and grew up in Swampscott. He graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and went to law school at Columbia.

Ben confessed that he and Mary had grown tired of city living and looked to the Five College area as a good alternative. Another factor was that their son Will lived in Amherst. Once they had made their choice, Ben dinked around on the Internet to find “a cool adult learning opportunity,” and found 5CLIR, which answered his needs perfectly.

He jumped right in in the fall of 2019 with a course on the US Constitution; in the spring of 2020 he took Rich Hamilton’s seminar on Political Revolutions. In the fall he took the brave plunge and moderated a course on US Immigration, for which I signed up and which was the means of getting to know him. “Immigration was very much in the news, and it was a subject about which I knew quite a bit. It was a LOT of prep, though,” he confessed, and he also had to learn to navigate on Zoom. Wife Mary, who had more experience on Zoom, was instrumental in making the beginning sessions work well; Ben was also grateful to Katy van Geel’s tech experience. How does he feel about Zoom now? “It’s a love/hate relationship,” he said. “I appreciate being able to get together with a group of my college buddies who live all over the U.S., though.”

Ben and I had other connecting points as well. His family has a summer place in Boothbay Harbor, ME; Jim and I have a toehold in a family cottage in Friendship, a bit farther up the midcoast, so we shared the passion for Maine.

We both also have experience of living in Latin America: Ben was a Peace Corps volunteer in southern Brazil (1968-69), while I was a former UMass professor of Spanish-American Literature who has lived and travelled all around South America and has family in Chile.

You never know what connections contacts in 5CLIR will unearth.

By Nina M. Scott

TASTY TIDBITS



YIKES, IT'S TRIPE!

My father, mother, sister and I had disembarked at Le Havre earlier that day, and we were sitting down to our first *bona fide* French dinner in Normandy. I was seventeen, had studied French, and was totally psyched for the huge travel experience that lay ahead. In the spirit of embracing adventure, without knowing what it meant, I ordered the specialty of the City that was touted prominently on the menu – *Tripe a la Mode de Caen*.

The dish was presented to me in a large bowl with what looked like a white sponge soaked in ink. I couldn't bear to even taste such a thing, and sent it back in return for something I knew to be a sure bet. So much for adventurous eating; I ordered *poulet, le boeuf* or *jambon* for the rest of our otherwise adventurous trip.

Postscript:

For those not in-the-know - as I was at the time - tripe is “the first or second stomach of a cow or other ruminant used as food”. (Its informal meaning – “nonsense”, “rubbish”, or “balderdash” – might also apply here.) Preparing it to eat is high on the scale of complexity, involving prolonged and multiple soakings. Caen's specialty features cider (which, by the way, shouldn't turn black in the cooking) along with a dose of calvados (among other more typical ingredients).

You might be interested to know I developed a more positive (if not downright romantic) view of tripe since then – less to do with the eating of it (goodness knows), than with the singing sounds of a local street vendor I woke up to every Friday morning during a dreamy prolonged stay in Florence. *Call it Tripe a la mode de Proust!*

- Nancy Denig

Please share your food dreams or memories with us all, limiting your missive to 100-150 words. Email your submission to Linda Honan at honan@umass.edu. Thank you!

IS THIS YOU?

CALLING ALL MODERATORS, PAST, PRESENT, AND POTENTIAL



I could never be a moderator.

I have lots of ideas for seminars, but could never lead one.

I enjoy being a moderator and lead a seminar most semesters.

I don't see ever being a moderator of a zoom seminar.

I would like to see seminars that are more interactive and rely less on presentations.

I have wondered about moderating a seminar, but find the idea too intimidating.

I could imagine moderating a seminar, but I have no idea how to do it.

If one or more of these statements describes you, we have an offer we hope you will not refuse! Starting in January, the Curriculum Committee will be holding a series of informal Zoom gatherings for and about being a MODERATOR. Each meeting will have, but by no means be confined to, a focused topic. We envision these meetings as an opportunity for current moderators to share ideas about their experiences, for anyone thinking about moderating to ask questions, and for seminar participants to weigh in on what they have enjoyed and/or wished for. Any LIR member is welcome to attend one or all these meetings. An email notice with sign-up instructions will be sent in advance of each meeting. These dates and topics may change as circumstances demand.

Feb 8	11 AM	Exploring alternative formats
Feb 16	3 PM	Maximizing social interactions on Zoom
March	TBA	Thinking ahead to Zoom/Hybrid seminars

2021 SPRING ENCORE PRESENTATIONS



Encore is a re-presentation of the best presentations from the previous semester. Nominations are made to moderators from each class, or directly to the Encore team. Presenters who are nominated have the option of presenting, and of updating their presentation with additional material before giving it during an Encore session.

REGISTER AT: www.5clir.org/2021-spring-encore-presentations/

A confirmation email will be sent when registering.

The **Zoom link** will be emailed to those who have registered prior to each event.

THE PRESENTATIONS:

February 12, 2021, 11:00 AM

Neolithic Stonehenge: The Sleeping Giants of Salisbury Plain

Presenter: Martha Hanner

Seminar: Europe Before the Roman Empire

The construction and purpose of Stonehenge have been debated for centuries. Now, archeological excavations and modern technology are revealing some of its secrets. I will describe some of the discoveries, including the source of the mysterious bluestones, 230 km away in Wales, the analysis of cremated bone fragments buried under the bluestones, the excavation of a nearby Neolithic settlement dating from 2500 BCE and how pig bones tell us when the workers feasted.

February 19, 2021, 10:00 AM

Otzi, Frozen Man of the Alps

Presenter: Jim Scott

Seminar: Europe Before the Roman Empire

On September 19, 1991 an astounding discovery was made high in the Alps. The frozen body of a man was found protruding from under a glacier. With the aid of modern technology vast information about this 5,000-year old man and the life he led as well as how he died has been revealed. This talk will explore some of these amazing findings.

February 19, 2021, 11:00 AM

Mary Anning and Ichthyosaurus

Presenter: Ruth Elcan

Seminar: Stones and Bones

Mary Anning, an uneducated 12-year old girl enters the history of paleontology when she discovers and excavates the 17' fossil of a reptile that thrived in the sea when dinosaurs dominated the land. You may find Mary's true story more significant than the historically baseless version in the current film Ammonite!

February 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

The Eisenhower Years

Presenter: Joan McKelvey

Seminar: Author-in-Chief

The presentation covers his early years, overview of his career as described in his "Diaries", his philosophy, policies, special leadership qualities, and major administration accomplishments. Finally, we look at the recently unveiled monument(s) off the Washington mall that were highly controversial in the conceptualization and design.

February 26, 2021, 11:00 AM

Social Media and the 2020 Election

Presenter: Rachel Borson

Seminar: 2020 General Election

The level of polarization and disinformation in the United States is unprecedented, and in no small part due to the influence of social media such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. This talk will focus on the back story of how social media creates distortion and "stacks the deck", and how the US is particularly vulnerable to this influence.

March 5, 2021, 10:00 AM

The Radical Right's Plan for America: The Role of ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council)

Presenter: Erika Hollister

Seminar: Author-in-Chief

The rise of Libertarianism and its influence on legislation in the USA. The influence of the Koch brothers with a focus on ALEC in undermine democracy.

March 5, 2021, 11:00 AM

Immigration to the U.S. from Haiti

Presenter: Susie Zeiger

Seminar: Immigration

This presentation will include some salient facts of Haitian history as well as the reasons Haitians immigrated to the U.S. Photos of the country and the people will be included.

March 12, 2021, 10:00 AM

Light Made Visible Through the Works of Contemporary Artist Dan Flavin, in Contrast to Japan's TeamLab

Presenter: Miriam Whitney

Seminar: Making Light Visible

This is an overview of the works of contemporary New York artist, Dan Flavin, who mastered the artistic use of fluorescent light from the 1960s until his death in the 1990s. His work is contrasted with the current immersive light shows by Japan's TeamLab.

March 12, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Narrow Corridor: States, Society and the Fate of Liberty

Presenter: Darcy Johnson

Seminar: The Future of Democracy

In their book, *The Narrow Corridor*, economist Daron Acemoglu and political scientist James Robinson examine state and society and the balance that is essential for liberty. This presentation highlights factors needed for the sustainability of the American system.

March 19, 2021, 10:00 AM

Canadian vs. U.S. Immigration

Presenter: Jane McMurrich

Seminar: U.S. Immigration

The populations of Canada and the US have historically similar roots, yet their immigration policies have led to different outcomes in terms of their appeal as destinations for emigrants, and the national origins of their citizens. This presentation explores the differences and similarities between the policies of the two countries.

March 19, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Code of Hammurabi

Presenter: Alan Armstrong

Seminar: Ancient Mesopotamia

Where some of our law came from: 1700 B.C.E. Mesopotamia and the Code of Hammurabi

Women, class, slaves, trade, trials, finance and punishments: laws governing life in Babylonia 4000 years ago.

March 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

The AIDS Epidemic

Presenter: Bruce Goldstein

Seminar: Pandemics and Epidemics

I cover the basics of the AIDS epidemic, but I focus on what it was like from the inside for gay men in the US. Along the way, I will point out similarities and differences between AIDS and COVID-19, lessons learned and not learned.

March 26, 2021, 11:00 AM

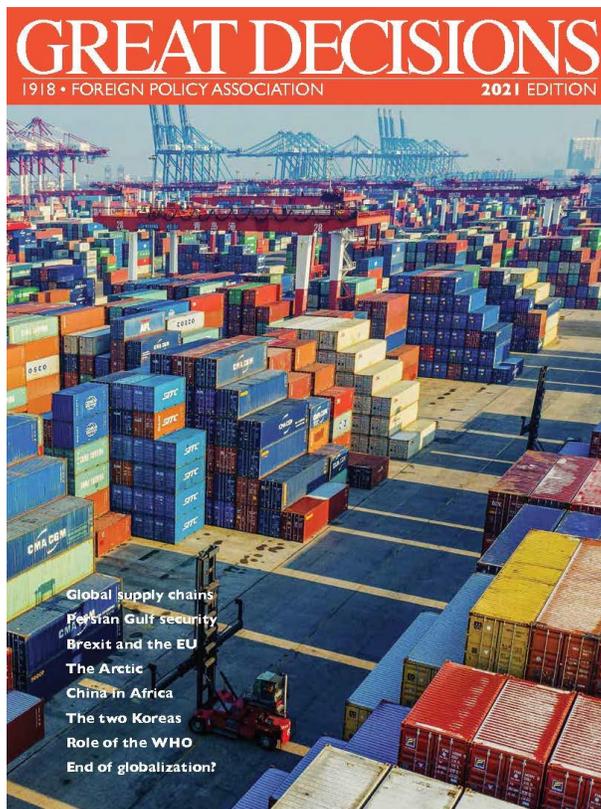
Food Waste

Presenter: Suzannah Fabing

Seminar: Waste

Americans throw away some 40% of their food every year, despite growing rates of food insecurity here and globally. Fortunately, steps can be taken to reduce food waste, and Massachusetts is something of a leader. Learn about what is being done to get food to those who need it and to repurpose inedible food into biofuel.

5CLIR PRESENTS the 2021 Foreign Policy Lecture Series



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; preregistration required.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

10:00 AM – Noon

Events are ZOOM webinars; login will be sent prior to each event.

Established in 1918, the Foreign Policy Association is a non-profit education organization and sponsor of the Great Decisions program.

Great Decisions is a national civic-education program that encourages participants to:

- Learn about U.S. foreign policy and global issues
- Discuss multiple viewpoints in a group setting
- Take part in a national opinion survey

TICKETS (sales open on February 22, 2021)

Payment is required at the time of registration; no checks or cash

Ticket Prices:

5CLIR members: \$12 per individual discussion or \$40 for the full series

Public admission: \$15 per individual discussion or \$50 for the full series

2021 Great Decisions Topics:

April 2, 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE GLOBAL ORDER

Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the U.S. remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?



Speaker: Peter Haas, Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Peter M. Haas is a professor of political science at University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he has taught since 1987. He received a Ph.D. in 1986 from MIT. He has published extensively on international environmental politics and global governance, and the interplay of science and international institutions at the international level. Professor Haas is the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Scholar Award of the International Studies Association Environmental Studies Section.

Dr. Haas is the author or co-author of many books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles with his work published in seven languages. Recently, his work has focused on networked governance and the role of science in international environmental regimes. Dr. Haas has consulted for the Commission on Global Governance, the United Nations Environment Programme; the governments of the United States, France, Switzerland, and Portugal, and the United States National Academy of Sciences. He has received grants from the National Science Foundation, German Marshall Fund, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Institute for the Study of World Politics, and the Gallatin Foundation.

April 9, 2021

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The shutdown of global supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore an issue with the high level of global economic interdependence: what happens when one country is the main source for an item, say face masks, and then can no longer supply the item? Countries suddenly unable to meet the demand for certain supplies are faced with growing calls for economic nationalism. What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?



Speaker: Eleonora Mattiacci is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Amherst College.

She researches how actors we traditionally consider weak (i.e., smaller states or rebel groups) can leverage technological advances ranging from nuclear weapons to social media to prevail against actors that are conventionally strong. She focuses in particular on the study of conflict, both within and between countries. Her research delves into how temporal dynamics shape relations between political actors in the international arena, and leverage evidence-based accounts of state and non-state actors' behavior as it unfolds over time. Her research has been published in multiple, peer-reviewed outlets, including *International Interactions*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and *Perspectives on Politics*. Her commentary has appeared on *New Security Beat* and *The Conversation*. She runs the [IRLab @Amherst College](#). She tweets at [@eleomatt](#)

April 16, 2021

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA

Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?



Speaker: David Jensen, Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

David Jensen is a Professor of Computer Science at University of Massachusetts Amherst. He directs the Knowledge Discovery Laboratory and currently serves as the Director of the Computational Social Science Institute, an interdisciplinary effort at UMass to study social phenomena using computational tools and concepts. He received a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis in 1992, and from 1991 to 1995, he served as an analyst with the Office of Technology Assessment, an agency that operates under the auspices of the United States Congress.

Professor Jensen's research focuses on machine learning and artificial intelligence for analyzing large social, technological, and computational systems. His research is supported by the National Science Foundation and the Defense Advanced Research

Projects Agency (DARPA). He has served on the Board of Directors of the ACM Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (2005-2013), the Defense Science Study Group (2006-2007), and DARPA's Information Science and Technology Group (2007-2012). He received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the UMass College of Natural Sciences in 2011.

April 23, 2021

BREXIT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

With the “Brexit transition period” coming to an end in 2020, the United Kingdom will formally leave the European Union at the start of 2021. With negotiations between the two entities continuing to stall, what does the future of Europe and the UK look like? Will the UK survive a possible Scottish vote to leave? Who will step up and take command of Europe now that Angela Merkel is out of the spotlight?



Speaker: Christopher Mitchell, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Politics, Mount Holyoke College

Christopher Mitchell's research explores the politics of finance and financial crises, especially in the European Union. His current research explores efforts to centralize financial regulation in the European Union and the effects of Brexit on British financial markets. He has previously written on the likely economic costs of Brexit and the politics of bank bailouts in the European Union (esp. Britain and Germany) and the United States in the 2007-2009 crisis. He has previously worked for the US International Trade Commission, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the US Congress. He teaches courses on the European Union, international political economy, the politics of international finance, and the role of trade in US foreign policy.

April 30, 2021

CHINA'S ROLE IN AFRICA

The Covid-19 crisis has put a massive strain on what was growing a positive economic and political relationship between China and the continent of Africa. As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece “Belt and Road initiative” continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as the African government's growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the growing economic and political issues between China and Africa? What are the layers of macro historical connections shaping China-Africa encounters today?



Speaker: Helen Siu, Professor, Yale University

Helen F. Siu, is a Professor of Anthropology and former chair of the Council on East Asian Studies. She has conducted decades of fieldwork in Southern China, exploring agrarian change and the nature of the socialist state. Lately, she explores rural-urban interface in China, inter-Asian connections, China-Africa encounters, popular culture and new political space in Hong Kong. She has served funding and research assessment committees in the United States, Europe, and Asia, and is the founding director of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. (www.hkihss.hku.hk). Her recent publications are *Asia Inside Out* (3 volumes, Harvard U Press 2015, 2019); *Tracing China: A Forty-year Ethnographic Journey* (HKU Press 2016), "China-Africa Encounters: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Realities," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46 (Nov 2017), and "Financing China's Engagements in Africa: New State Spaces along a Variegated Landscape," *Africa* 89 (4), 2019. She is executive producer of an 83 min documentary film on a Cantopop diva and Hong Kong (*Denise Ho: Becoming the Song*, 2020). Her website at Yale University is <https://anthropology.yale.edu/people/helen-siu>.

Classic Film Group II



Due to the popularity of the original Classic Film Group LIR now offers Classic Film Group II. Each month, a participant will select a film for the next session, and prepare to lead an informal discussion. We will watch the films on our own time between the meetings. The Kanopy film archive is available at <http://www.kanopy.com>, and you can set up a user id using your library card or university ID. The range of movies available without charge on Kanopy is significant including many Criterion films, drama and comedy from the golden years of Hollywood, and many productions of Shakespeare.

Conveners: Pam Daniels and Tyll van Geel

Date and Time: Third Thursday of the month at 4PM, December 17, 2020 – June 17, 2021.

Participants: Minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 max (including conveners). New members are encouraged to join.

Location: on Zoom

Description: Each month we will discuss a film from the Kanopy archive for 45 minutes or so. We will watch the films on our own between the meetings.

Role of participants: A participant will select a film for the next session, and prepare to lead an informal discussion.

To sign up: Contact Pam Daniels and Tyll van Geel.

New members are especially encouraged to join.

Zoom Help

Three booklets summarizing information about Zoom are available at <https://5clir.org/tech-assistance/>.

Members of the Tech Committee are also available to work with moderators and members on a 1:1 basis over the Summer and into the Fall to ensure that we get our Zoom skills up to speed. Use the on-line form linked to the tech-assistance page to request help, or get in touch with a member of the Tech Committee (listed below).

Zoom Access

Most of us will need nothing more than to download a free basic Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/meetings> to get on board. Although some officers, committee chairs and moderators may be able to structure their meetings to fit within the forty-minute time chunks included in the basic account, they may find the need to upgrade to a Zoom PRO account for \$15/month at <https://zoom.us/pricing>. LIR will reimburse them for the upgrade upon approved request. A detailed reimbursement policy statement will be made available later this month.

“Zoom Hosts”

Many moderators would rather not get involved with technical details, to concentrate on running their seminar without distraction. The Curriculum Committee recommends that moderators recruit a “Zoom Host” to issue meeting invitations, allow access to participants, and advise on technical issues that may arise during the course of the session. Ideally, moderators will recruit a host volunteer from among their seminar participants. Members of the Tech Committee may assist in making alternative arrangements, if necessary.

Other Zoom Uses

The Zoom platform is not just for 5CLIR meetings and seminars. It has been enabling Summer programs that began in July and other more informal member gatherings. It seems ideally suited for many of the ongoing and special interest groups listed in our catalogue, and promises to be a catalyst for more such offerings to come. Contact Wendy Parrish, the chair of our Ongoing Programs Committee with your questions and ideas.

The Technology Committee

We owe a debt of gratitude to members of our Technology Committee who have been instrumental during 5CLIR’s transition into a post-Covid world. They continue to offer one-on-one assistance to LIR members, as well. Please email the appropriate committee member with questions regarding your particular digital device or software. They will try their best, even if they cannot guarantee a solution.

Android Cell Phones	Larry Ambs
Apple/Mac OS	Kathy Campbell, Gordon Wyse
Fire and HD tablets	Larry Ambs
iPad and iPhones	Gordon Wyse
Linux OS	Gene Fisher
Windows OS	Larry Ambs, Jim Harvey
Word, PowerPoint	Kathy Campbell, Jim Harvey
Zoom	Larry Ambs, Kathy Campbell, Jim Perot

ZOOM REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

8/24/2020

5LIR's Executive Committee and Council are pleased to announce its policy to reimburse selected officers, seminar moderators and program facilitators for costs associated with accessing Zoom, as outlined below:

Reimbursements will be made, upon request, in amounts up to:

\$150/year to selected officers and chairs hosting frequent and/or long committee meetings;
\$60/4 months to seminar moderators, and to our past president (retroactively);
\$60/year to monthly ongoing program facilitators.

Our office manager and emeriti academics and are otherwise covered by affiliated institutions. Exceptions may be made, upon special request, for co-moderators, provided the total number of such reimbursements doesn't exceed the 22 that are budgeted.

All reimbursement requests shall be made online, at <https://5clir.org/forms/>
Using the [ZOOM HOSTING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM](#)

Note that all requests must be accompanied by a receipt, attached to the online form.

The gross annual costs for such expenditures will be partially offset by reduced budget allocations for non-Covid-safe events.

5CLIR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please refer to your member directory for contact information. Directories are sent periodically, and you may request one from the office at any time.

Council Members	President	Nancy Denig
	Vice President	Tyll van Geel
	Treasurer	Monroe Rabin
	Asst. Treasurer	Gene Fisher
	Secretary	Bev von Kries
	Past President	Jake Greenburg
	At Large	Francie Borden
		Rachel Borson
		Elisa Campbell
		Bob Cohen
		Kip Fonsh
		Pat Jorzak
		Kay Klausewitz
James Lee		
Margaret Russell		
Larry Ambs		
5C Liason	Ombudsperson	Anne Lombard
	Historian	Sara Wright
Committee Chairs	Activities	TBA
	Curriculum	Kathy Campbell, Francie Borden
	Finance	Monroe Rabin
	Great Decisions	Bruce Brewer
	Member Events	Catharine Porter
	Membership & Outreach	Margaret Russell
	Nominating	Margaret Russell
	Ongoing Programs	Wendy Parrish
	Projects & Events	Ellen Kosmer
	Technology	Gordon Wyse

COUNCIL THUMBNAIL BIOGRAPHIES

OFFICERS

Nancy Denig, President

Nancy Denig is a retired landscape architect, living in Northampton again, after years away from her alma mater, Smith College. Since joining LIR in 2013, she has chaired the Summer/Winter Program Committee, and (co)moderated a number of seminars featuring reading and writing - poetry, Proust and memoir - but no arithmetic.

Tyll van Geel, Vice President

Following a career as an academic attorney (with some practical experience as an attorney with a federal agency) I joined LIR in 2007 (my wife and I having moved to Amherst from Rochester, N.Y.). I've enjoyed seminars in history, law, literature, and art, as well as moderating seminars in both law and history. I have served two terms on the Curriculum Committee, served two years as a co-chair of the CC, and served three years on the Council. My hobbies include photography and bread and bagel baking.

Jake Greenburg, Past President

I arrived to the Pioneer Valley in 1986 from New York and had a twenty five year career At MassMutual in Springfield as an I.T. professional. After retiring in 2011, I attended the Civil War Symposium presented by 5CLIR. It was because of that symposium that I decided I wanted to be part of 5CLIR. I became an active participant in many of the seminars offered over the years. I joined the Great Decisions Committee in 2013 and found that its work in presenting foreign policy issues was very rewarding. I became chairperson of the committee 3 years ago. I was elected to the 5CLIR Council 3 years ago and am current serving as Vice President. I am excited to be part of the 5CLIR organization that offers so many educational opportunities and social events to its members.

Bev von Kries, Secretary

I joined LIR about thirteen years ago, shortly after I retired from my career as a librarian. I've thoroughly enjoyed being a member of LIR and have been involved in many different ways.... as a seminar member of course, as a moderator or co-moderator of several seminars, as a committee member of various committees, as a co-chair of the Curriculum Committee and as a member of Council. Now, if elected I'm happy to support our organization as secretary.

Monroe Rabin, Treasurer

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY. My undergraduate education was at Columbia, followed by graduate study at Rutgers University and a PhD in physics in 1967. I then left the East coast for California, doing research there in High Energy physics at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In 1972 I came back East to join the faculty of the Physics Department at UMass Amherst, where I continued research in High Energy physics. I also ventured into a new field, with a rewarding Sabbatical year in Medical Physics at the Radiation Oncology Department of Mass General Hospital. I joined LIR in 2016 and have enjoyed the Writing to Remember seminar every semester since then. In addition, I moderated one seminar (Radiation and You).

Gene Fisher, Assistant Treasurer

I am a professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I taught sociology at UMass from 1984 to 2004. I joined 5CLIR in the winter of 2016. I have attended

so far 3 seminars (Reading Piketty, The Preacher and the Playwright, The Crusades) and moderated one (From Fundamentalism to Extremism).

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Francie Borden

term ending 2023

My life has been about loving learning. As an educator, I started a school, taught, and administered for 45 years. I have been active in LIR for 5 as participant, moderator, and member of committees.

Rachel Borson

replacing Gene Fisher, term ending 2021

Rachel is a retired Hematologist-Oncologist who moved to the Pioneer Valley in 2012 with her two cats. Since retiring several years ago, she has enjoyed having a varied life with sport (especially rowing and biking), learning, some part-time employment in new fields, travel and volunteer work. Her grown children live in Boston and Chicago, and are a source of joy.

Robert Cohen

term ending 2023

I grew up in Westfield, attended Cornell and Boston University, and have a BA in Psychology. My work background is in retail electronics and wholesale distribution. I retired from the family business (distribution of cleaning supplies) in 2015 after 37 years. I have extensive business experience that could be of value to Council.

Kay Klausewitz

term ending 2023

Kay, feeling that socialization and stimulation are important to a successful retirement life, was delighted to hear about 5CLIR. She, and husband Ron, joined after moving to the Pioneer Valley in 2014 to retire. They were familiar with the urban/rural setting because Kay received her doctorate in Education and Family Studies at the University of Massachusetts. Kay has served on numerous committees, chairing two of them.

Elisa Campbell

term ending 2022

I joined LIR about 10 years ago and have been an enthusiastic participant in seminars and various summer and January activities ever since, especially seminars in history and science. I moved to the area in 1970 to be a graduate student in the English department at UMass, and feel incredibly lucky to live here. I want to contribute to LIR's community of learning and caring.

Kip Fonsh

term ending 2022

I am a retired high school social studies teacher who has served as an education consultant to the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Director of Education at the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction. I have filled two empty positions on the 5CLIR Curriculum Committee and the 5CLIR Council. I have taken taken five 5CLIR courses and will be a first time moderator this fall for a course entitled "Basketball and American Society." I would like very much to continue to serve as a member of the Curriculum Committee and the Council.

James Lee

term ending 2022

James R. Lee is a retired college teacher who taught theater courses for over thirty years. He taught at Lemoyne-Owen College, Drew University, Bucknell University, and Connecticut College; and taught course that included acting, directing, dramatic literature, and speech. He attended Duke university (B.A. in English Literature), Tulane University (M.F.A. in directing), and the Yale School of Drama (M.F.A. in Dramaturgy). Over his career, he has directed nearly thirty production ranging from Chekhov to Pinter, as well as several musicals. Over the last several

years, he has attended seven LIR seminars and delivered three Encore Presentations.

Pat Jorczak

term ending 2021

I have been a member of 5CLIR for 7 years and have taken 30 classes. I am very passionate about the organization and would like to give back. My degree is in Communications, with a Business minor, from CCSU. My career was in Business, retiring from Met Life Financial Services. I feel my business background gives me a different perspective that would be an asset being on the Council. I have been on a number of boards and committees all my adult life.

Margaret Russell

term ending 2021

I am still a newcomer to LIR, having joined last year (prompted by my husband's wonderful experience with the program). After taking two seminars, I am co-moderating a seminar on the Mid-term Elections in the fall. My husband and I moved to Northampton seven years ago from Cape Cod, where I was editor and publisher of the weekly newspaper, The Falmouth Enterprise, for nearly 20 years. After leaving the family business, I served as administrator of The 300 Committee Land Trust in Falmouth for five years, taking early retirement to move to the Pioneer Valley.

2021 LIR CALENDAR

NB: Updates may be made as planning for online activities continues to develop.

For additional program dates, go to the website calendar at: <https://5clir.org/google-calendar/>

2021

Thu Feb 4	1:00 pm	Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu Feb 4	2:15 pm	Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Thu Feb 11	2 00 pm	Online - Council Meeting
Mon Feb 22		March newsletter deadline
Mon Feb 22		First week of Spring Seminars
Thu Mar 4	1:00 pm	Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu Mar 4	2:15 pm	Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Thu Mar 11	2:00 pm	Online - Council Meeting
Thu Mar 25		April newsletter deadline
Thu Apr 1	1:00 pm	Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu Apr 1	2:15 pm	Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Thu Apr 8	2 00 pm	Online - Council Meeting
Mon Apr 26		May newsletter deadline
Mon Apr 26		Last (regular) week of Spring Seminars
Sun May 2 (Date TBA)		Online Annual Meeting
Mon May 3		Online Fall 2021 Preview
Thu May 6	1:00 pm	Registration opens for Fall seminars
Thu May 6	2:15 pm	Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu May 13	2:00 pm	Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Fri May 21		Online - Council Meeting
Mon May 24		Deadline for Registrations to be in Lottery Fall 2021
Mon May 31		June newsletter deadline
		Memorial Day
Thu Jun 3	1:00 pm	Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu Jun 3	2:15 pm	Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Mon Jun 7- Fri Jun 11		Online Council Election
Thu Jun 10	2:00 pm	Online - Council Meeting
Mon Jun 14		Fall class enrollment announced
Wed Jun 30		Calendar & Membership year end

The 5CLIR NEWSLETTER
is published by
Five College Learning in Retirement



Smith College
18 Henshaw Avenue, C2
Northampton, MA 01063
Phone: (413) 585-3756
(Currently offsite)
Email: 5clir@smith.edu
Website: www.5clir.org

Editor: *Tisha Ferguson*