THE 5CLIR NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow lifetime learners,

Though it’s tempting to make it blooming bulbs or birdsongs, the theme for this month’s letter is initiatives. I’d like to report to you about some behind-the-scenes work that has gotten underway recently.

Operations Manual update:

Bev von Kries (our Secretary) and Sara Wright (our Historian) have been joined by Darci Johnson (our Secretary Elect) to begin this project’s first task – to add policies and guidelines that Council has approved since our last update in 2017. This should be done by the end of June. Their next step is to edit the manual’s text for consistency and greater clarity.

Committee restructuring:

The work of our eleven committees is the sine qua non of our organization (how’s that, all you Latin scholars out there?). Four of these – Curriculum, Executive, Finance and Nominating – are mandated in our Bylaws. The rest constitutes a relatively stable set whose names and portfolios have only been adjusted over the years to reflect new ideas and changing conditions. Though Council approved a few minor changes several years ago, concerns about name recognition and function have persisted, just as pandemic precautions have insisted on a more comprehensive overhaul. I call your attention to an ensuing article on the proposed re-structuring that Council is currently considering. Our VP, Tyll van Geel, has articulated some evaluation criteria that may prove helpful, as you read about what we have in mind. He wrote that we should consider the following:

a) The attractiveness of the portfolio of a given committee. ("Is this something I want to work on?")
b) A good name for the committee that communicates it responsibilities effectively;
c) Avoiding overlapping responsibilities (and/or functional gaps);
d) The difficulties for the chairs in managing the committee. (The more complex and time-consuming the job the harder it is to get volunteers to be chairs.)
e) If it’s not broke, don’t fix it.

Ad Hoc Website Planning Committee:

As we consider our committees overall, I’d like to announce formation of a new ad hoc Website Planning Committee, to be co-chaired by Membership & Outreach and Tech Committee representatives. Its mission will be to set the stage for a new look for LIR that reflects who we are, what we have to offer, and how people might join in on “sharing the pleasures of active learning”. This committee should establish criteria for our web presence; I can’t help adding, though, that such a site should be at least more accessible, attractive, engaging, informative, and flexible than our existing one already is. (If you don’t know much about our existing site – www.5clir.org – you’re not alone; it’s a measure of its lackluster condition that many active members are in the same boat.) Beyond that, we’d hope the
committee would do a state-of-the-art review of exemplary sites and conclude with design and implementation recommendations. Our Tech and Outreach Committees will take it from there to inaugurate and keep it up to date.

Does this initiative interest you? I invite you to volunteer for serving on this committee by submitting your name to our suggestion box. There are no prerequisites beyond interest and availability; noting any relevant background or experience you may have, however, would be both helpful and optional.

So, beside these initiatives, how about them Spring bulbs and birds?
Be well, everyone,

Nancy

Committee Restructuring

This proposal for restructuring our committees is based on numerous consultations with committee chairs, exploration of alternatives, and a positive preliminary review by Council as it relates to our evaluation criteria. As you will see, the proposed committees are clustered around one of three “sectors” constituting LIR’s organization – Mission, Communications, and Governance. Let your friends on Council know what you think; Council will be reviewing it in greater detail, with an eye to potential approval, at its upcoming meeting on April 8th.

P.S. Oh, and while you’re reading, give thought to what would most interest you as a way to join in the rewarding work of fulfilling LIR’s mission: “sharing the pleasures of active learning”.

Mission Sector Committees

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (no change)
- Moderator preparation (handbook, training, meetings et al)
- Seminars & Workshops (Fall and Spring)
- Short Seminars & Workshops (early Summer)
- Preview Catalog (with Office Manager)
- Preview/Open House (with Office Manager & Past President)
- Liaison w/ other committees

EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS (new name)
- (Previously “Activities”, “Winter/Summer”)
- Intersession programs (Winter & late Summer) (new)
- Field Trips (concerts, theater et al)
- Liaison with Curriculum Committee

GREAT DECISIONS (no change)
- An independent public program

INTEREST GROUPS (new name)
- (Previously “Ongoing”)
- Year ‘Round Continuous Programs of Various Kinds
PUBLIC PROGRAMS (new);
(Previously part of “Ongoing” & “Projects & Events”)
Encore Presentations
Projects & Events (performances, lectures etc)
Legislators’ Forum
  Liaison with Outreach Committee

Communications Sector Committees

MEMBERSHIP (revised portfolio)
(Previously part of “Membership & Outreach”)
Ad Hoc Race/Diversity Committee
  Membership Surveys
(Memorial Service: responsibility of Past President)
Newsletter Contributing Editor (with Office Manager)
Social events (Newcomers Coffee, Potluck & Spring Social)
Suggestion Box (monitor & delegate with Office Manager)
  Welcome Packet (for new members)
  Liaison with Outreach Committee

OUTREACH (new)
(Previously part of “Membership & Outreach”)
Facebook Content (new)
Instagram (new)
  Publicity (press releases, flyers, postcards)
  Work with relevant committee and Office Manager
Public Relations for LIR (new)
  Follow-up OM referrals
Speakers Bureau (new): Presentations to other groups
Web Page Content Oversight (new)
  Liaison with Great Decisions, Public Programs, Membership &
  Tech Committees

TECHNOLOGY
Technical set-up & management of Webpage (new)
Training & mentoring
Workshops
  Liaison with Membership & Outreach Committees

Governance Sector Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
General administration
Calendar Oversight (new)
Various duties specified for each officer
FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICE MANAGER (OM) Assists in work with all committee
PEER-LED LEARNING THRIVES AT 5CLIR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MAY 2 PREVIEW
to introduce 25 seminars for Fall

Enormous thanks to members both old and new for stepping up to develop and moderate a range of compelling seminars for our Fall semester. Short stories, War and Peace; movies, vaudeville; music, poetry; Supreme Court cases, conspiracy theories, science, writing, and crafts are all in the line-up. Be sure to set aside the afternoon of May 2 to meet the moderators and learn about their offerings. The Preview will be on Zoom, but we are hoping that in person gatherings are coming soon!

There are several proposals for short summer seminars and room for one or two more. Proposals will be accepted until mid-May. The flexibility of these offerings give moderators and participants plenty of leeway for working around both COVID and travel. Summer proposal forms can be found at the 5CLIR website under Help and Resources/Forms.

And finally, cheers to all of us whose participation in Spring Seminars is enlivening and expanding our winter-weary, quarantine-contained lives.

The Curriculum Committee
REGIONAL VOICES: MUSICAL TRADITIONS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

March 25, 7PM: Piedmont Bluz
April 8, 7PM: Elizabeth Laprelle
April 22, 7PM: Dennis Strougnmatt

A Three Part Virtual Concert and Discussion Series
Each program will consist of a 45 minute performance followed by a 30 minute discussion/Q&A.
Program Presented on Zoom

This program is presented with the support of the Five College Learning in Retirement Fund for the Future
5CLIR MEMBERS ATTEND AT NO COST, BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED
Tickets: $5 for individual performances, $12 for the Series

FOR REGISTRATION AND TICKETS, GO TO: WWW.5CLIR.ORG
5CLIR PRESENTS
the 2021 Foreign Policy Lecture Series

![Great Decisions 2021](image)

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 run 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?

![Christopher Mitchell](image)

**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.
VOLUNTEERING

Consider Volunteering — There’s Something in It for You and for LIR

Of course volunteers want to contribute to the nonprofit they’re supporting. Yet altruism isn’t the only motive. Whether we admit it or not, we volunteer because we get something out of it: satisfaction, friendship, making use of talents honed in our former careers, or developing new skills.

A committee chair made the right pitch for Kay Klausewitz when she attended the new member coffee seven years ago. While Kay doesn’t remember who made the point, she remembers the advice: interaction among participants is limited in seminars, so the best way to get to know others is to volunteer on a committee. “I’ve definitely found that to be true,” Kay said recently. She started by joining the theater group and leading trips for a few years. Last year Kay was elected to the Council and served as chair of the Nominating Committee. She still offers the same reason for volunteering, making that point at a meeting of committee chairs earlier this year: “It’s a great way to make friends.”

Nancy Clune was a newcomer to the Valley when she joined LIR about five years ago and at the same time checking off the box on her membership form indicating her interest in what was then the Member Services Committee. “If I was going to get to know people, I needed to get involved,” she said.

As a newcomer, Nancy figured she would be good at welcoming other new members. Her advice to other newcomers? It’s important for any organization, she said, “to have new people with new ideas.”

Wanting to be a part of those involved with LIR decision-making was what prompted Chris Hurn to run for a seat on the Council. With 13 members, the Council is a small group making decisions for the organization, he pointed out. “Of course I wanted to help the organization,” he said, but he also “always wanted to know who the movers and shakers were, to get to know them and play a part” in the governing aspect of LIR. A 15-year member, Chris ran for Council several years ago and served two terms, filling in for someone who had to step down in the first term.

Neil Novik believes this is a good time for members to get involved in the organization. Also a member of the Curriculum Committee, Neil said LIR is “going through changes, strategic thinking — and you can be part of it.”
LIR members will vote for new Council members at the annual meeting in May. Candidates were nominated in March by moderators from among members in their seminars.

This is an especially important time for committee memberships. The Membership and Outreach Committee, which began just a year and a half ago, has been restructured into two committees with broader scopes. Other committees are always looking for new members.

Committee chairs are listed on the 5CLIR website under Leadership and Governance. Anyone interested in volunteering, or curious about what volunteering on a committee entails, is welcome to call or email them.

The work that gets done at the committee level is what keeps LIR vibrant, exciting, and open to change. You can be part of this endeavor. Recently, the entire organization of committees was restructured, so now is a good time to commit to the process by which LIR plans to meet the future. Committee chairs are listed on the 5CLIR website under Leadership and Governance. Go ahead, contact one of them.

ZOOM TIP OF THE MONTH

**Raise Your [Zoom] Hand!**

Trying to get a word in edgewise? When you use the Zoom "raise hand" function, your video gets promoted to the front of the lineup. That makes it easier for the moderator to spot you than when you just wave at the camera, especially in a large meeting like Encore or Great Decisions.

So where is this magic button? Well, recently it moved. If you are using an up-to-date Zoom client, you have a button on your meeting control bar labeled "Reactions", and besides buttons to award hearts or thumbs up to the speaker, there is a "Raise Hand" button there.

In the older versions of Zoom, you had to go to the Participants window (click on the Participants button) and find the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of that window.

And you really should be using an up-to-date version of the Zoom client. The current release is 5.6.0 or higher, a major upgrade that was released March 22, although it might take a little longer to get to the Apple Store for IOS devices (iPhone, iPad.)

Start at [https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version) to find out how to update the Zoom client on your device. It may be automatic, but if it is not, you should check for updates regularly. There are several releases a month and almost all of the changes are improvements and enhancements that you actually want to have.
How long have you been a member of Learning in Retirement and how did you learn of the organization?
I have been a member of LIR since 2002, the year I retired from UMass. I learned of LIR from my husband, Jim, who had joined about 1997.

What brought you to our “Happy Valley?”
Jim and I came to Amherst in 1968 – he had gotten a job at Amherst Regional High School (teaching science) and I was hired at UMass as an Asst. Professor of Spanish. I had just completed my PH.D. and since I stayed at UMass for 34 years, it was my first and last job. No, actually, that’s not true. Mt Holyoke hired me to head up their Spanish Department in 2005-6, and after I had retired from that, Amherst College hauled me out of my second retirement to head up their Spanish Department from 2010-12. Jim says I am a slow learner about retirement.

How is retirement working for you?
Retirement is HEAVEN! No regrets whatsoever for having retired somewhat early (I was 64). LIR made the difference. Jim and I have participated almost every semester, both in seminars and on committees, and therefore our brains have not atrophied…

What have you been reading lately?
I have been reading Michael Ondaatje’s The English Patient, and Annette Gordon-Reed’s The Hemingses of Monticello.

What kinds of seminars have you most enjoyed? And why?
I enjoy seminars on literature, art, history, and food. I am a Humanities geek and a passionate foodie/cook. I wish I were more adventurous in the sciences.
What is on your bucket list?
I guess the principal thing on my bucket list is to keep on living – Jim and I will turn 84 this year, and I so enjoy life and friends and keeping my brain alive through LIR.

Whom would you like to imagine around your dinner table?
Around my dinner table… you mean, apart from Julia Child? I guess Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648/51 ?-1695), the brilliant Mexican poet/nun on whom I did a lot of research in my prior professional life, Miguel de Cervantes, Vermeer and Velázquez, and I’ll stop there. Jim could come, too.

What else would you like us to know about you?
What else to tell you? I adored university teaching and contact with graduate students – a number of these are now my close friends. I was born in Germany and lived through WWII there, so I am a bona fide immigrant. I speak three languages: English, Spanish and German, and I am happy that I have had this opportunity to live tri-lingually. I am grateful for a wonderful husband and family and many good LIR friends. And a good dog.
TASTY TIDBITS

Life on an island revolves around the pier. On the Hebridean Isle of Coll, where my husband’s family has been gathering since the early 60’s, the weekly ferry arrives with the groceries, island supplies, livestock trailers for sheep, visitors from the “rest of the world” and Collachs returning from a mainland visit.

Once we headed down to the pier to do some mackerel fishing. There is nothing better than fresh mackerel and sausages cooked on the beach and that evening was to be one of the last before a proper gale blew in. Just as the lines had dropped a trawler pulled up alongside seeking safe harbor. We noticed in the stern a pile of rocks and assorted shellfish and got talking to the crew. “Aye, take what you like.” Since they had no land transport, we asked what they might need for the evening. We fetched two six packs of beer for the crew and returned home with of 5 or 6 lbs. of fresh scallops. The best tasting find ever!

Martha Hanks-Nicoll

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!
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 |
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

5C Liaison: Larry Ambs
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: Kay Klausewitz
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 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.
2021-2022 5CLIR CALENDAR

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

April 2021 – June 2021

Thu Apr 1 1:00 pm   Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu Apr 1 2:15 pm   Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Fri Apr 2 10:00 am   Great Decisions
Thu Apr 8 2:00 pm   Online Council Meeting
Fri Apr 9 10:00 am   Great Decisions
Fri Apr 16 10:00 am  Great Decisions
Fri Apr 23 10:00 am  Great Decisions
Mon Apr 26   May newsletter deadline
Mon Apr 26   Last (regular) day of spring seminars
Fri Apr 30 10:00 am  Great Decisions

Sun May 2    Online Annual Meeting
             Online Fall 2021 Preview (immediately following)
Mon May 3     Registration opens for Fall seminars
Thu May 6 1:00 pm   Online Executive Committee meeting
Thu May 6 2:15 pm   Online Curriculum Committee meeting
Thu May 13 2:00 pm  Online - Council Meeting
Fri May 21    Deadline for Fall 2021 registrations to be in lottery
Mon May 24    June newsletter deadline
Mon May 31    Memorial Day – office closed

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 enrollments announced
Wed June 30      Membership renewals due for 2021-2022
                 End of LIR fiscal Year

No July committee meetings, newsletter

July 2021 – June 2022

July-August  Summer seminars/workshops
July 1       Membership year begins – renewals due
August 5     Executive Committee, 1:00 PM
August 12    Council Meeting, 2:00PM
September 2  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
September 9  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
September 27  Start date for fall seminars/workshops
September 30  Spring pre-proposal deadline

October 7  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
October 14  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
October 17  Spring final proposal deadline

November 4  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
November 11  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
November 21  Spring Preview
November 22  Winter/Spring registration

December 2  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
End date for fall seminars/workshops
December 6-9  Make-up/snow days
December 9  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
December 13  Spring lottery deadline

No January committee meetings, newsletter

February 3  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
February 10  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
February 21  Start date for spring seminars/workshops
February 28  Fall pre-proposal deadline

March 3  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
March 10  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
March 27  Fall final proposal deadline

April 7  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
April 14  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
April 28  End date for spring seminars/workshops

May 1  Annual Meeting &
Summer/Fall Preview
May 2-5  Make-up/snow days
May 5  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
May 12  Council Meeting 2:00 PM
May 23  Fall lottery deadline

June 2  Executive Committee 1:00 PM
June 9  Council Meeting 2:00 PM

No July committee meetings, newsletter
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