



THE 5CLIR NEWSLETTER MAY 2021



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow lifetime learners,

The time is coming up in June to renew our LIR membership. I hope that between now and then, you'll also reach out to recruit other friends and neighbors to join us. What better time, with the Fall Preview upon us? (Our Previews were double-billed as Open Houses in pre-COVID days, you may recall; they'll be called that again, once the pandemic has been quelled and we can move beyond an open-to-the-public zoom meeting format.)



Thinking of Previews, you could say there are six stages of seeing the fresh crop of seminars featured at our biannual events. Do any of these ring a bell with you?

1. Anticipation (It's almost like looking forward to holidays!);
2. Surprise (What an amazing display of creative ideas and intellectual curiosity!);
3. No surprise (Why would I be surprised, though, knowing there are so many experienced, bright people among us?);
4. Indecision (How could I decide among the possibilities?);
5. Reality check (How much time and energy do I really have?); and
6. Sweet surrender (It's all good; I can always learn something and get to know more like-minded people, even if I don't get my first choice).

There are a couple of things to keep in mind while renewing (or initiating) your membership. LIR's dues are not just tuition for seminars, but for year 'round participation in lifelong learning and friendship. And, secondly, getting involved beyond taking seminars is the best way to get even more from what LIR has to offer; ask, too, how you might offer your talents, interests or just plain willingness to do your share – as a moderator or co-moderator? as a committee member or chair? as member of Council?

Enough of all this for now. It's May, after all, and time to cultivate our gardens (whatever guise they take).

Enjoy!
Nancy

THE 5CLIR ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 at 1:30PM

(followed by the Preview, in the same Zoom session)

Pre-registration **REQUIRED** – go to www.5clir.org

FOR MEMBERS: How to Participate in the Zoom Annual Meeting

- **Please arrive early** for Annual Meeting.
The Annual Meeting will be called-to-order at 1:30, but please arrive early starting 1:15. You will be able to chat, verbally or electronically, with your fellow-members while the credentials committee determines if we have a quorum.
- **Keep your audio muted**, except when called on to speak. Once the meeting begins, everyone should mute themselves except when speaking or preparing to speak to the whole meeting.
- **Raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak.** There will be a few opportunities for members to speak during the Annual Meeting. If you wish to speak, you **MUST** "raise your hand" electronically. (Do not wave at the camera! in such a large meeting, you will not be seen.) The electronic "raise hand" function will be in one of two places on your Zoom screen:
 - If you have a "reactions" button on your meeting control bar, click on that and then on the "raise hand" option.
 - Otherwise, you can find the "raise hand" option by clicking on the "participants" button and clicking on the icon at the bottom of that window.
- **Voting by members** There will also be a couple of "votes" during Annual Meeting. Because both are pro-forma motions (to approve the minutes, after discussion, and to adjourn), the chair will ask if there are any objections. Again, if you wish to object, you will have to raise your hand electronically.
- **Turn off your video if you need to get up and stretch**, but please join us for this important LIR event!
- During the Preview, due to time constraints, no one except the panelists will have an opportunity to speak.
- Participation in the Annual Meeting is for Members only. Non-members are asked to turn off their videos during Annual Meeting. When we get to the Preview, everyone may turn their videos on or leave them off; your choice.

The 2021 Fall Preview

Sunday, May 2, 2021 2:00-4:00 PM

Following the Annual Meeting in the same Zoom session

All times are approximate.

The Preview will begin between 2:00 and 2:10,
depending on when Annual Meeting ends.

Approximate time Interviewee(s) seminar title

2:00 START TIME

Intro by Jake

2:03 Jim Harvey Ancient Egypt

2:07 Ellen Kosmer, Betsy Siersma Here's Looking at You, Kid

2:11 Gene Fisher The Story of David

2:15 Jay and Margaret Russell (one screen) Reconstruction &
the Constitution

2:19 Kip Fonsh The Beatles

2:23 Jim Scott The Elements

2:27 Chuck Aulino Short Stories to Share

2:31 Jessica Tropp Textiles

2:35 Christine Heckman The Crafty Grandparent

2:39 Dottie Rosenthal,

3:03 Linda Honan The Lewis and Clark Expedition

3:07 Gerald Goldman Social Media Problems and Solutions

3:11 Patricia Tillona The Wild West Era

3:15 Michael Miller, Paul Cooper Death in Hollywood

3:19 Stephanie Levin Great Supreme Court Decisions

3:23 Jane McMurrich Great Plants in History

3:27 Nancy Coiner Tolstoy's War and Peace

3:31 Rachel Borson Paranoia and Conspiracy Theory

3:35 Elizabeth Armstrong The Sonnet

3:39 Henia Lewin Writing to Remember (Blue)

Catharine Porter, Trish Callard Writing to Remember (Red)

Francie Borden Writing to Remember (Purple)

3:50 Adjournment

FROM THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Fall seminars will be previewed on Sunday, May 2, and registration opens the next day. You should receive the print catalog in the mail shortly, if you have not already received it. You can also browse the fall catalog on line at 5clir.org/2021-fall-seminars/.

The online catalog includes additional "handouts" and e-mail links for contacting the moderators, as well as a link to the registration page.

Registration can be done on line only, and must be completed by **Friday, May 21**, to be included in the first round of class assignments.

And remember to renew your membership.

Membership rates are discounted 20% while we continue to offer seminars on line only, and there is no charge for using the online form at 5clir.org/forms/ to renew through PayPal.

Coming soon:

poetry, jazz, feminist storytelling, the Great Lakes--these are some of the waters you can dip your toes into thanks to our program of short summer offerings. It's not too late to submit your own proposal; find the form at 5clir.org/forms/. The Curriculum Committee will be reviewing proposals at its May 6 meeting.

And one last moderators' meeting

before we adjourn for the summer (but we'll be back with more in September!)

This one, at 1:30 on Monday, May 10, will look back over the past, unprecedented year. What have we learned that might apply even to future in-person seminars? How can we encourage feedback from participants? What additional support do moderators need from the Curriculum or Tech committees? This meeting is open to all LIR member: moderators, potential moderators, and the merely curious.

Registration opens for fall classes on
Monday, May 3 at www.5clir.org



ONGOING GROUPS, Going On as *INTEREST GROUPS*

As we go into the summer, and close out what's been a very different LIR year, I'd like to thank all of the wonderful facilitators that we've had for Ongoing Groups. Having so many informal ways to chat with each other as an LIR group has been great, especially with the new ones that have piqued our interest.

Some of them won't be continuing – they were, in part, started mainly to get us through this year. I'd really like to thank the facilitators of the departing groups: Classic Movies I (Elizabeth Armstrong), and Medical Ethics (Paul Berman) for having made these groups available to us. An extra something interesting to do each month was welcome. Note that Classic Movies II

(Tyll van Geel and Pam Daniels) is expecting to continue.

At least for the immediate future, groups will continue to meet online with Zoom (as they did last year). Everyone is settling on what comfortable in-home meetings look like, and nobody wants to rush that. This is partly because with Zoom, some groups are meeting later in the day than they otherwise might, and members like not having to drive home that close to dinner. Some might stay permanently on Zoom – there's no reason that couldn't happen.

For members who want to get involved we have two groups, Family History and Reading the Classics, which are undersubscribed at the moment. But all of the Ongoing Groups have had changes as people start traveling again, and everyone expects more change and fluctuation. A full listing of groups is in the catalog, along with when they meet, and how to contact the facilitator.

FROM the FOOD MIGRATION Seminar

Coffee stamps....



Coffee was the subject of a seminar presentation by Katy van Geel, shortly thereafter, the above stamps were issued by the U.S.P.S.!

A POEM by Ogden Nash

THE DOG

The truth I do not stretch or shove
 When I state the dog is full of love.
 I've also proved, by actual test,
 A wet dog is the lovingest.

-submitted by Tyll van Geel

PROFILES IN RETIREMENT: Jay Russell



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

I first learned about LIR from a brochure that we picked up at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce several years before we moved to the Valley. The year we moved, 2011, I attended the LIR-organized Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium, and I joined LIR in the fall of 2013.

What brought you to to our “Happy Valley”?

I wanted to escape the summer congestion on Cape Cod, and I didn't want former clients to stop me in the grocery store for advice! Seriously, while visiting our daughter at Smith, I realized how much the area and colleges had to offer retirees.

How is retirement working for you? (Surprises? Regrets?)

I have no regrets about retiring. I have not missed practicing law for one nanosecond since taking down my shingle ten years ago. As a retiree, I enjoy not rushing and having the time and energy to do what I want to do.

What have you been reading lately?

Recently, I have been reading mostly mysteries and thrillers to escape. My favorite pandemic year books, though, were *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *Plainsong* (by Kent Haruf), *David Copperfield*, and *The Splendid and the Vile*.

What kinds of seminars have you most enjoyed? (And why?)

I have taken and/or moderated or co-moderated political or public policy seminars (because I'm a political/current events junkie) and history seminars (to compensate for not being a history major in college).

What is on your bucket list?

A trans-Atlantic cruise on the Queen Mary 2, a trip that was postponed by the pandemic.

Whom would you like to imagine around your dinner table?

I would host two dinner parties: the first with Mickey Mantle and Arnold Palmer — the heroes of my youth — and Thomas Boswell, a superb baseball and golf columnist for the *Washington Post*. The second dinner would be with Jon Meacham, Chris Matthews, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Nicolle Wallace.

What else would you like us to know about you?

I'm a lifelong, inveterate and unapologetic New York Yankees fan, and I love Southern fried chicken.

For more information on this member spotlight series, please contact Margaret Russell at j7m4russell@gmail.com

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		
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	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 love being involved with LIR.

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.

2021-2022 5CLIR CALENDAR

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

May 2021 – June 2021

Sun May 2	1:30pm	Online Annual Meeting
	2:00pm	Online Fall 2021 Preview
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

The 5CLIR NEWSLETTER
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