



Five College Learning In Retirement

Peer-led Life Long Learning in the Pioneer Valley

Amherst College - Smith College - Hampshire College - UMASS Amherst - Mount Holyoke College



January Newsletter

Reminder: The LIR office will remain closed until January 9.

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

A January Newsletter to welcome in the New Year and to welcome our **twenty-three** newly enrolled members!

There is a lot to look forward to in LIR this winter: Special Winter Programs and ongoing Interest Groups will tide us over until Spring semester seminars begin February 27. Encore Presentations will bring highlights of the Fall 2022 seminars on Friday mornings and Great Decisions will soon be announcing its Spring lecture series.

Memorial Service

Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 12, 2023, 10 AM
Watch for a Zoom link to be sent on January 11th.

We will be remembering:

Hy Edelstein
Dona Dunn Motts
Betty Romer
Sally Wilbur
Peggy Winnett

Winter Programs

Please be sure to register for the Winter Program offerings:

Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap

How do we get there from here?

Moderator: Martha Hanner

One Session. January 24th at 10AM on Zoom.

Native Plants and Their Partners: Birds, Bees and Butterflies

Moderators: Margaret Russell and Sherry Wilson

Four Sessions. January 23 and 30, and February 6 and 13. 1:30-3:30PM on Zoom.

Doing Good Works in the Community

Moderators: Nancy Clune and Tyll van Geel

One session. February 1 at 10AM on Zoom

Dr. Bruce Kimball will draw on his recent book, *Wealth, Cost, & Price in American Higher Education, A Brief History*, in examining the financing of higher education.

One session. February 14 at 1:30PM on Zoom.

LIR President's Forum

Two Sessions. January 18 at 10AM and February 15 at 7PM on Zoom.

[Register by clicking here!](#)

Interest Groups

Interest Groups continue to meet during winter months. Jane McMurrich (jane.mcmurrich@gmail.com) can answer your questions about these activities.

At present we have the following groups:

Book Group
Classic Film Group
Reading Round Table
Reading the Classics
Viewpoints
Women's Stories/Women's Lives

Consult the catalog for further information about these groups.

If you have an interest you would like to share on a regular basis, please talk to Jane about creating a new group. No proposals forms, no registration forms required!

Spring Seminars Filling Fast!

If you haven't registered yet for Spring seminars, consider doing so now. You can find a list of open seminars on our website [here](#).



from Communications Committee Co-chair, Kevin Foley

The new year is just underway; so let's share a LIR community resolution to speak with people we know (maybe even someone we don't) about joining LIR. If we think on it, we can always find another person we haven't tried to persuade to register for a couple of seminars.

Keep in mind there are still seminars open for the spring session and people can join right up until late February. With a seat or two open in the ones you're in, might be nice to invite someone to join you and perhaps do a presentation together.

And remember, that dinner for two in a Northampton restaurant is still out there for the winning. Notify the office if you have referred a new member so you can be entered in the drawing.

Getting involved - Making the most of your LIR experience

Council is the governing body of LIR. It consists of the six officers, who comprise the Executive Committee, and nine members at large. All LIR members in good standing are eligible to serve on Council. According to the bylaws, "Nominations to the Council are invited from each peer-led seminar held during the current membership year." Do not hesitate to nominate yourself or another member you feel would be perfect for the job! New members are welcome! Kay Klausewitz is chair of the Nominating Committee. You can reach her at kayklausewitz@gmail.com.

Committees are the lifeblood of LIR. They are described in the catalog and you can express an interest in serving on a committee by accessing a form on the website or by contacting the committee chairs whose names are listed on the last page of the catalog.

Togetherness and being with people are well known to promote health and well-being. Even if you cannot be together in person, Zoom provides the opportunity to make eye contact, share smiles, and talk about everything from the weather to world affairs. Use your seminar lists and membership list to invite a few folks for a zoom social.



Council Corner

New Membership Year and Fees for 2023

The LIR Council made decisions at the December meeting that will go into effect in the new year.

Starting in 2023, the LIR membership year will run from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. What that means for each of us is that membership renewal will be due by May 1. This will allow members who are renewing or those joining for the first time to be eligible to register for Fall seminars. The office will send invoices to current members in April as a reminder.

Also, this year the annual LIR membership dues will revert to the pre-pandemic level of \$250.00. Fixed expenses have increased in the last three years as we all know too well. Membership assistance is always available if requested.

We will continue to offer discounted fees for new members: The Council has approved \$200 for a new full-year membership. There will no longer be a half-year membership from May 1 to November 30. A \$100 half-year membership for new members will be available from December 1 to April 30.

Name change

Two-thirds of the Council voted in favor of continuing to explore and discuss changing the name of our organization. An ad hoc committee is charged with researching and exploring all the practical, philosophical, and emotional pros and cons. The committee members are Tyll and Katy van Geel, Pam Daniels, Karen Furst, and Kay Klausewitz. Please reach out to them with your insights and ideas.



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Learners,

I am very happy to welcome so many new learners to Learning in Retirement. LIR is about keeping our minds active and enjoying that together. As many of you know, “teaching” is a great way of learning—hence peer-led seminars! If you are new to the idea of “peer-led learning” or find it at all intimidating, please know that support is there for the asking. Your moderator, a fellow participant, a friend or acquaintance in the organization are all sources of help and encouragement. I, too, am always glad to support you in any way.

All Members Invited to Share Their View of LIR at a President’s Forum

I am hoping to hear from you! You are a member of LIR. Your voice counts, but it needs to be heard. Are your hopes and expectations being met - or not? Are you finding seminars and activities that interest you - or not? Are you longing for more social events - or not? What are your priorities for the future of LIR? Please join me on Jan 18th at 10 AM or February 15 at 7 PM or BOTH to share your concerns and hopes. You can register by clicking [here!](#)

Francie Borden

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