

Five College Learning In Retirement



FALL 2023

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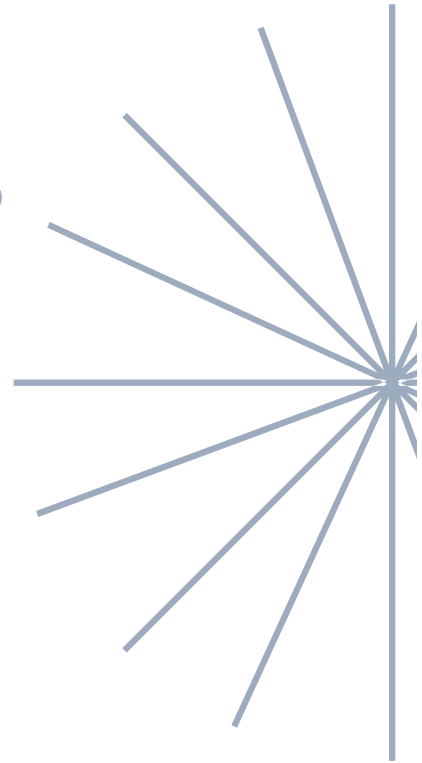
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Sharing the Pleasures of Active Learning

Five College Learning in Retirement (FCLIR) was established in 1988 to encourage, support, and provide opportunities for members to share the pleasures of active learning. Each goal remains important to our mission. Every member benefits by actively participating in presentations, discussions, and hands-on workshops. Each of us enriches the learning experience through reading, writing, and researching while bringing ideas, images, and insights to topics we have chosen to explore.

Members can participate in a wealth of learning and social opportunities. This biannual catalogue provides details of new seminar offerings for the Fall semester. Beyond these programs, FCLIR offers Interest Groups; Special Programs; Winter and Summer programs, trips, and short seminars; Encore Presentations (public productions of popular presentations from previous semester); and the Great Decisions series of lectures and discussions.

Volunteering to serve on a committee or running for Council are great ways to make new friends. Social events such as potluck picnics, coffees foster our strong sense of community.

Many of us strengthened our FCLIR ties on Zoom. As we go forward, we are combining some in-person seminars and events with continued use of Zoom to include those of us who live far away, who do not drive, and who prefer its convenience. We are beginning to work with hybrid systems which combines both styles of seminars to enhance inclusion during this time.

FCLIR is a non-profit, dues-funded, self-governing organization under the umbrella of Five Colleges, Inc. We employ an office manager who serves in support of our leadership and the work of our many volunteers.

You can learn more about FCLIR on our website at 5clir.org and by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at fclir@fivecolleges.edu.

Membership in FCLIR

All are welcome to join. You do NOT have to be retired. There is NO age requirement. Although we are a dues supported organization, our membership assistance fund guarantees a place for anyone with a desire to share learning. Full members may participate in all programs and events of FCLIR. They can vote, serve on committees, and hold offices. First-time members are guaranteed a place in their first choice of seminars.

[Sign up for Membership](#)

You must renew your membership before the **May 31st** deadline to be included in the Fall 2023 lottery. New members, as well as former members who did not rejoin FCLIR for the Spring 2023 semester, can join or renew either online or by mail before May 31st.

Online: To register, go to 5clir.org membership. Fill out the form online and click submit. Use PayPal for secure online payment.

By mail: To register, go to 5clir.org membership-and-dues. Print and fill out the form, and send it with a check to:

FCLIR Office Manager
202 Plain Road
N. Hatfield, MA 01066

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

Five College Learning in Retirement welcomes as members and guests, persons of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or gender (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, religious belief, and socio-economic status.

Further, Five College Learning in Retirement does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or gender (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, religious belief, or socio-economic status.

Greetings from the Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee of Five College Learning in Retirement is pleased to present an outstanding collection of seminars and workshops for Fall 2023. We extend our sincere thanks to members who have generously shared their interests and energy to create a wide range of topics. We are especially pleased that several moderators are contributing for the first time. We are always on the lookout for new moderators who will bring fresh energy and offer an additional variety of topics to our existing programs.

You will be able to meet all the moderators and co-moderators at the online Preview on Sunday, May 21, at 2:00 PM. In addition, many moderators posted additional information about their seminars and workshops at 5clir.org. They can also be reached by email through that page if you have further questions.

There may be different expectations for participants depending on the seminar or workshop, but in all of them you will be actively engaged in sharing information, ideas and conversations. The “Participant Handbook,” “Moderator Handbook,” and “Guidelines for Constructive Participation in Seminars” contain comprehensive and useful information that will enhance your active learning experience. These useful handbooks can be found at 5clir.org/5clir-handbooks/.

Members:

Jake Greenburg, co-chair	Kip Fonsh
Tom Jones, co-chair	Darcy Johnson
Lise Armstrong	Stephanie Levin
Hardy Ballantine	Janet Nichols
Nancy Coiner	Neil Novik
Nancy Denig	Bobbie Reitt
Gene Fisher	Deborah Rubin

Seminar Registration Overview

Registration Instructions

- Registration for Fall 2023 courses opens Sunday, May 21, 2023
- Registration can be made online or by mail but not by telephone.
- Membership dues must be current prior to registration.
- Additional information is at <https://5clir.org/memberships-and-dues/>

Enrollment Process

- All registration received by Tuesday, June 6, 2023 will be included in the first round of seminar assignments.
- Oversubscribed seminars will be filled by random lottery of all registrations received by the deadline.
- Those not assigned to seminars/workshops as requested will be added to the wait-lists.
- Registration notifications will be sent out about **June 16, 2023**.
- Registrations received after the lottery will be added to requested seminars/workshops or added to the wait-lists.
- Changes to seminar assignments can be made by the **office only**. In the event of low enrollment, a seminar may be canceled by the Curriculum Committee, in consultation with the moderator.

Absence

- Members who are aware that they must miss two or more sessions of a seminar or workshop should check with the moderator before enrolling to determine whether or not that will be acceptable.

Withdrawals

- Notification of withdrawals should be communicated to both the moderator and the office.
- Withdrawals should be made as soon as possible, so the space can be made available to another member, and to ensure that the moderator can plan accordingly.

Seminar Schedules

- Most seminars run ten weeks, but some run fewer or start later.
- Please check the listing for schedule details and dates that the class will not meet.
- Seminars are usually two hours long. Please check the seminar pages in this catalog for individual seminar schedules.

Participant Responsibilities

- Participants should become familiar with their role and responsibilities.
- The Participants Handbook can be found on the website at 5clir.org/documents.
- Several guidebooks to Zoom for participants and moderators are at <https://5clir.org/tech-assistance/>.
- In addition, members of the Tech Committee are available to provide assistance.

FCLIR Ombudsperson

- Should a difficulty or situation arise in a seminar that cannot be resolved, the FCLIR Ombudsman may be contacted for assistance.

Seminar Locations

- As FCLIR moves forward to accommodate our membership's desire to resume in-person meetings, please be aware that all locations are subject to change. We will attempt to keep seminars within the same town if they must be moved.
- Moderators will be made aware of any restrictions and will pass those on to participants prior to the start date.

Completing Your Registration Form

- You can find the Registration Form on the website. It is linked at <https://form.jotform.com/201353697163154>
- **Enter the TOTAL NUMBER of seminars YOU WISH TO ENROLL IN in the box provided. If this box is left blank, you will be assigned ONE seminar.**
- Moderators and co-moderators are pre-enrolled in their seminars. If you are a moderator or co-moderator, you do not need to be listed on this form.
- Enter up to six choices, in order of preference.
- If you wish to co-enroll with another member, you may register for one seminar together. That seminar must be the first choice of both members, and both members must submit registrations by the lottery deadline. Moderators may not co-register.



2023 FALL SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminars and workshops meet for two hours once a week for up to ten weeks, unless otherwise noted in the program catalogue.

MONDAY AM

Boomers Helping Boomers p.8
Exploring Artificial Intelligence p.14
Picture of Nothing p.21

MONDAY PM

Writing to Remember Blue p.22
Photo Workshop p.19
The Motown Sound p.16

TUESDAY AM

Censorship and Banned Books
Today p.7
Our Neighbors to the South p.18
Writing to Remember Green p.23

TUESDAY PM

1619 Project p.20
19th Century American
Utopian Societies p.10
Our Mutual Friend p.17

WEDNESDAY AM

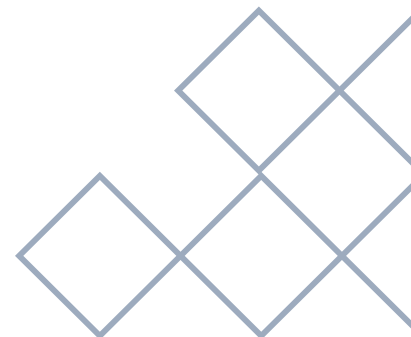
Brazil - Its History and Culture p.9
Civil Rights p.11
Don Quixote p.12

WEDNESDAY PM

Writing to Remember Purple p.24
Jewish History p.15

THURSDAY AM

Early American Industrialists p.13
Writing the Remember Red p.25



Censorship and Banned Books Today

Challenging current book bans in schools and libraries

Course #:	F23-AET
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Linda Honan
Date and Time:	Tuesday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	1

PURPOSE: This seminar will consider the practice of censorship in schools and libraries in the United States, looking at the reasons behind it, the identity of those who practice it, and possible solutions.

DESCRIPTION: The American Library Association (ALA) reported 2,571 unique book titles were targeted for censorship in 2022, a 32% increase over 2021—58% of the targets were books in school and classroom libraries or school curricula; 41% were in public libraries. The bans affected 138 school districts in 32 states, with Texas and Florida leading the nation. Many individuals came to library board meetings demanding that 20 or 40 or even 100 books be banned, the majority being books written about members of the LGBTQ community, people of color, and human sexuality. The banned list includes dozens of classic authors as well as current books. In 2022 ALA launched Unite Against Book Bans, an initiative to empower readers to join in the fight against censorship. This seminar will consider the people involved in book banning, their motivations, and how we can resist them. Seminar participants will choose a favorite banned book or author to describe for us, and explain why we should read them.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will choose one adult book author and one children's book author from the list of currently banned books created by the ALA. They will describe the chosen authors, illustrating their talk with slides if they choose. Presenters will speak for 20-30 minutes, and then we will join in discussion.

RESOURCES: Here is one suggested reading: *Dangerous Ideas: A Brief History of Censorship in the West, from the Ancients to Fake News* by Eric Berkowitz. A handout will be provided by the moderator.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Linda Honan is a former museum educator and university program coordinator who is happily retired in the Pioneer Valley.

Boomers Helping Boomers

Course #:	F23-BHB
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Fred Bogin
Date and Time:	Monday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Library Annex in Hatfield
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to provide CLIR members (aka Boomers) with current information on a broad range of topics of great relevance to all of us dealing with the challenges of our “senior” years.

DESCRIPTION: In session one I will review the appropriate resources for obtaining valid, evidence-based recommendations. As a physician I feel comfortable taking responsibility for the appropriate choice of sources by participants. Topics we may explore in the seminar include: recognizing scammers, support for technology challenges, financial planning, estate planning, physical health, mental health, cultural opportunities, and the practice of gratitude. Without covering any of these in great depth, participants can nonetheless research key themes and provide practical, understandable, and useful information. For example, a presentation on physical health might offer guidelines regarding diet, exercise, sleep. Practices such as Yoga, Tai Chi, and others could be reviewed. What is known regarding reducing the risk of cognitive decline? How can we minimize the risk of falls? How can we support heart health? While most presentations will be by participants, I may invite several outside “experts” to speak on topics such as estate planning and financial planning.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant will select a topic from the seminar outline to research and present a 20- to 30-minute presentation summarizing key insights gained through the research. As facilitator, I will review participants’ research plans. I will also encourage anyone with concerns regarding any of the presented material to contact me personally or raise their concerns during out group discussion.

RESOURCES: I am going to strongly recommend that we all read (or reread) Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. I plan to share relevant articles from the Harvard Health Letter and similar resources of interest to our generation.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Fred is a retired pediatrician who has facilitated four seminars. I have a great interest in ways that we can support our optimum physical and mental health and how we can help each other stay safe and healthy.

Brazil

Beyond the Amazon, Carnival, and soccer

Course #:	F23
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Ben Jaffee
Date and Time:	Wednesday 9:30-11:30AM Starting 9/27/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to expose participants to the complex history and culture of Brazil, an important country under-appreciated by most Americans.

DESCRIPTION: Brazil, the largest country in Latin America in both area and population, is far more than the land of the Amazon, Carnival, and soccer. A former Portuguese colony for over 300 years, Brazil was also the destination of more African slaves than any other colony and country in the Western Hemisphere. We will explore Brazil's many similarities to and differences from the United States, as well as from the other Latin American republics. For example, how did Brazil abolish slavery without a civil war and even without much violence? What was the aftermath of Brazilian abolition in 1888? How has Brazil navigated the path from Portuguese colony to 19th-century empire to a functioning democracy? After the turbulent 2022 election, what is the future of Brazilian democracy? The seminar will also explore areas of Brazilian culture that have achieved international recognition—music, literature, sports, and cuisine—as well as the unique racial makeup of the Brazilian population.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will choose from a list of topics to research and prepare a 30- to 40-minute presentation and participate in a discussion after the presentation. Participants will also be free to choose a topic of their own, in consultation with the moderator.

RESOURCES: The moderator will make available a list of books, journal articles, and Internet resources for use by all participants for general purposes and for specific research topics. (see seminar handout).

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Ben Jaffee was a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Brazil and has travelled widely through Latin America. A former immigration attorney, he previously moderated an LIR seminar on U.S. immigration.

19th-Century American Utopian Societies

The rise and decline of selected Utopian communities

Course #:	F23-AUS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jay Russell
Date and Time:	Tuesday 1:30-3:30 PM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Library Annex in Hatfield Hybrid
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: This seminar will examine various Utopian communities to determine who and what led to their formation and the reasons most failed to endure.

DESCRIPTION: “Utopia” was the name of Sir Thomas More’s fictional island in his 1516 “little true book . . . about how things should be in a state.” He was not the first (e.g., Plato’s Republic) nor the last to theorize about the elements of an ideal society. According to the author of *Paradise Now: The Story of American Utopianism* “[n]o moment of history or place on the globe has been more crowded with utopian longing and utopian experimentation than the United States in the middle of the 19th century.” Another author notes that almost 200 utopian communities, including several in Massachusetts, sprang to life America between 1820 and 1850. Starting with the Shakers, who established 18 villages by 1826, the seminar will cover twelve to fifteen 19th-century utopian communities, including the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, and conclude by comparing the present-day Twin Oak Community of Virginia.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: In addition to reading one or more of the recommended books and participating in the question and discussion periods each week, each member of the seminar will give a 25- to 35-minute presentation on one of the utopian communities from the list (see the handout) prepared by the moderator).

RESOURCES: Participants should read at least one of the following books: Chris Jennings, *Paradise Now: The Story of American Utopianism* (2016); Erik Reece, *Utopian Drive: A Trip Through America’s Most Radical Idea* (2016); Mark Holloway, *Heavens on Earth: Utopian Communities in America 1680-1880*, 2nd ed. (1966).

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Jay, a retired attorney and LIR member since 2013, has previously moderated or co-moderated eleven history and political seminars.

Civil Rights

Black Americans' struggle for power and civil rights

Course #:	F23- CRM
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Kip Fonsh
Date and Time:	Wednesday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 9/27/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE The purpose of this seminar is to examine the origins and history of the Black Americans' struggle for freedom, power, and civil rights from 1875 to the present.

DESCRIPTION: Using available primary and secondary sources and starting with the post-Civil War period, the seminar will investigate the origins and history of Black Americans' struggle through the eyes of individual and organizational advocates. The focus will be on their fight for equal freedom, power, and rights.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: From a list of individuals and civil rights organizations provided by the moderator, participants will select one to research. They will make a presentation of no more than thirty minutes of their findings and lead ensuing discussion.

RESOURCES: Participants will make use of those resources that are relevant to their specific research.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Kip has moderated seminars on Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Miles Davis.

Don Quixote, Part I (1650)

Course #:	F23-DQP
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Nina Scott
Date and Time:	Wednesday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 9/27/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	17
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to introduce seminar participants to one of the great works of Western literature. No research is required – conversation among the seminar participants is fine, as is reading some passages aloud in class.

DESCRIPTION: DON QUIXOTE has been called the first modern novel, a work in which fiction and reality are inseparable. In translator Edith Grossman’s opinion, “Cervantes’s writing is a marvel: It gives off sparks and flows like honey. [His] style is so artful it seems absolutely natural and inevitable; his irony is sweet-natured, his sensibility sophisticated, compassionate and humorous.” (xx) I sincerely hope you will not be put off by the length of the text – it is so worth the effort.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Since this is a long and complex book, you will need to do no outside reading unless you wish to. We will be covering some 60 pages of text per session, with two people leading the discussion.

RESOURCES: We will use Edith Grossman’s translation (Please do not use any other, as our page assignments will not line up.)

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: I was a Professor of Spanish at UMass for 34 years and have also taught and been in administration at Mt. Holyoke and Amherst Colleges. I have moderated this seminar twice before.

Early American Industrialists

Visionaries, Miscreants, and Philanthropists who built America before there were rules

Course #:	F23-EAI
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Edie Kirk
Co-Moderator:	Janet Nichols
Date and Time:	Thursday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 9/28/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	1

PURPOSE: Together, we will discuss who these men and women were. Where did their wealth come from and how did they help to build America? What, if anything, did they do to improve the future for the common man or woman?

DESCRIPTION: Modern America, written by Vincent De Santis, notes that “Between 1860 and 1900 capital invested in manufacturing rose from \$1 billion to almost \$10 billion”. Who were the men and women behind the growth? Many of the names will be familiar, like Andrew Carnegie and John J. Astor, and others will be lesser known, like Hetty Green and Elias Haskins Derby. Yet they all helped to build the America we live in today. Their wealth came from banking, oil, lumber, meatpacking, beer, steel, railroads and more. Some were inventors, manufacturers, and bankers. Others became masters of fraud and manipulation, greed and corruption. And yet, some of those who might appear to be the most dishonest did amazing things for the citizens of America’s future. This seminar will offer the opportunity to learn more about early American dreamers and innovators and discover how they all influenced the structure of America – economically, socially, and geographically.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will be invited to select one or two people from a list provided, or on their own (as long as the person was born before 1850), to tell the industrial’s story in a format most comfortable to the participant.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Edie Kirk was involved in Advancement/Development during her career, including graduate study at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI. She continues to find Philanthropy a fascinating topic at both the micro and macro levels. Janet has moderated three LIR seminars and is a retired college business instructor.

Exploring Artificial Intelligence

Are we living in the midst of a special evolutionary moment?

Course #:	F23-AIE
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Kevin Foley
Date and Time:	Monday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE The seminar’s purpose is to examine and experience the phenomenon of artificial intelligence broadly and specifically. We will seek to appreciate A.I.’s benefits and potential dangers through studying its application in a variety of sectors.

DESCRIPTION: The ten-week seminar will begin with an introduction to A.I. followed by a discussion of our current understanding, our excitement, our fears. The following eight weeks will feature presentations by participants on a variety of chosen topics, including A.I. influence in finance, cyber security, military defense, space exploration, medical research, healthcare delivery, criminal justice system, transportation, education, arts, business operations, government, and surveillance as well as ethical, and philosophical issues. The expectation is that each session will explore one topic, leaving room for questions, discussions, and debate. Participants will have a say in the design of the sessions. The final session will be a comparison of early impressions versus new thoughts after the presentations.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant will be expected to make a Zoom presentation and lead a discussion, either individually or with a partner. Use of A.I.–driven tools (such as ChatGBT) will be encouraged.

RESOURCES: The moderator will provide an assortment of essays and video links on A.I.as preparation for the seminar. Thinkers such as Stuart Russell, Nick Bostrom, Ezra Klein, Kevin Roose, and Cade Metz will be included. Participants will no doubt provide material as their research evolves.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Kevin Foley is a three-year LIR member serving as co-chair of the communications committee and chair of the ad hoc website committee. He was a public relations executive and consultant and an editor of a weekly newspaper.

Jewish History

From the Golden Age of Spain to the Founding of the State of Israel

Course #:	F23-JHS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gerald Goldman
Date and Time:	Wednesday - 9:30 - 11:30 AM Starting 9/27/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to learn about the extraordinary people and events which shaped the last ten centuries of Jewish life.

DESCRIPTION: There have been many productive centuries in the journey of the Jewish People but none have been as creative and surprising as the ten centuries between the Golden Age in Spain and the birth of the State of Israel. This seminar will tell the story of the languages, crafts, music and poetry, mysticism and rationalism, statesmen and movements, institutions and parties that Jews have created in their thousand years travel. Among the topics that participants will be offered are the stories, music, and dance of the Hasidim, Jewish secular nationalism and the Zionist enterprise, life under czars and commissars, and anti-Semitism, and the development of the Reform and Conservative movements in America. No expertise in these subjects is required. The moderator will suggest a book which will provide the background to each of these topics.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will choose the topic they wish to report on from a list provided by the moderator.

RESOURCES: The one required book is "Turning Points in Jewish History." Author Marc J. Rosenstein, University of Nebraska Press, 2018.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: The moderator is a retired rabbi who has taught this material over many years.

The Motown Sound

It doesn't matter what you wear, just as long as you are there

Course #:	F23-MOS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Nancy Clune
Co-Moderator:	Bob Cohen
Date and Time:	Monday - 1:30 - 3:30 PM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Library Annex in Hatfield Hybrid
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: In this upbeat seminar, we will immerse ourselves in all things Motown—Berry Gordy, the songwriters, the songs, the singers, the backup singers and dancers, the music industry, and the temper of the times in Detroit in the 1960s and 1970s.

DESCRIPTION: The year was 1964 and the girl group was Martha and the Vandellas. The sound was a blend of R&B, Soul, and Pop fresh out of Detroit, the Motor City—Motown for short. That July “Dancin’ in the Street” rose to number 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Berry Gordy, Jr. founded the Motown Record Corporation in 1959, long before Motown became one of the world’s most successful Black-owned businesses. Working out of his home in Detroit (emblazoned with a Hitsville banner), Gordy assembled an array of talented artists. Mary Wells, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, and the songwriting production team of Holland-Dozier-Holland were just some of the luminaries who got their start at Motown.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will choose a topic from the moderator’s list or propose another topic. Presentations should take 20–30 minutes, with discussion and additional audiovisual clips from the audience to follow. Presentations can include sheet music, memorabilia, photographs, and audiovisual clips.

RESOURCES: We will provide a list of recommended books, articles, CDs, and DVDs.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Nancy Clune was born 45 minutes from Broadway, just not in New Rochelle. She loves to sing and wishes she could tap dance. Although at birth Bob Cohen could neither read nor write, he later became a man of too many words. In 2015, he retired from the family business, and soon became enmeshed in LIR. His passions are musical theater, art, reading, and time travel.

Our Mutual Friend

Dickens's last full novel and the waning of the Victorian era

Course #:	F23-OMF
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Nancy Coiner
Co-Moderator:	Antonia Woods
Date and Time:	Tuesday - 1:30 - 3:30 PM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: We will explore the brilliance and darkness of Victorian London as we read our way through *Our Mutual Friend*. Together we will share our favorite passages, worry about our favorite characters, and discuss scenes of gripping suspense and delightful warmth.

DESCRIPTION: The novels of Charles Dickens are justly famous for their dramatic plots, memorable characters, and sharp insights into how individuals and social classes interact. The novelist writes with sympathy for the poor, biting satire for the rich, and—always—an eye for the perfect detail. In his last completed novel, *Our Mutual Friend* (1865), Dickens tells the story of dark obsessions, from the desire of a beautiful woman to greed for money and grasping for social status. It starts with a dead body in the Thames and a large inheritance whose heir is missing. By the novel's end, it has drawn in characters from working-class boatmen to London's nouveaux riches, from an articulator of bones to a young barrister who is idle, cynical, and lost. Along the way, a willful young woman learns to love, and a respectable schoolmaster learns to hate. It's a large and complex novel that requires no special knowledge and repays our attention with rich emotional rewards.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Members of the class will be expected to read the novel, discuss it with the class, and either give a presentation or lead a discussion. Topics for presentations might include Victorian daily life, Victorian London (slums to mansions), the Thames River, working-class life, and Dickens's life (including other novels).

RESOURCES: We strongly recommend that everyone use the Penguin Classics paperback version of the novel.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Nancy loves novels—reading them, discussing them, teaching them, even writing them. She has moderated several LIR seminars. Antonia has two MAs, in history from Yale and in English from Mount Holyoke. She has taught U.S. history and American Studies for 38 years. She loves close reading of classic novels.

Our Neighbors to the South

Central America and the Caribbean Islands

Course #:	F23-ONS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Tuesday - 9:30-11:30AM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	3

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to gain a better understanding of Central America and Caribbean countries (the region in North America south of the United States) and the role the United States has played in their history.

DESCRIPTION: The countries of Central America and the Caribbean have a long and rich history. From the time of the Aztecs and the Mayans to the present they have made important contributions to the world's culture and our own. Unfortunately we Americans have paid inadequate attention to what is going on in that region. and when we have paid attention it is often for the wrong reasons and, frequently with tragic consequences. The immigrant crisis at our southern border is the latest example. This seminar is intended to give participants an opportunity to become better informed about this important part of our world. We will explore a broad range of issues including history, culture, economics, geopolitics and interactions with the United States. We will also spend some time studying the ancient civilizations of the Mayans and the Aztecs to better understand the cultural context of the region.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: The participants will read some collateral material suggested by the moderator. They will also deliver a 30-40 minute presentation on one of the countries and lead a discussion of their topic. The moderator will distribute a list of recommended countries.

RESOURCES: Participants will be asked to read "Central America's Forgotten History" by Aviva Chomsky as well as some articles taken from the Internet.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: In the 20 years since Jim joined FCLIR he has led over 40 seminars, a number about other countries, cultures and time periods.

Photography Workshop

Lighting equipment and methods for a home studio

Course #:	F23-PWS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Thomas Clune
Date and Time:	Monday - 1:30 - 3:30 PM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	UMASSFIVE Credit Union Hadley
Max # of Participants:	10
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE: The purpose of the workshop is to familiarize people who enjoy photography with the equipment and methods of studio work.

DESCRIPTION: This is a hands-on introductory workshop using strobe and continuous lighting in the studio. Every week, the moderator will demonstrate equipment and methods that participants will then apply to their own creations. We'll explore flash, monolights, and panel lighting as well as the use of gobos, snoots, grids, and diffusers in portrait and tabletop (product and still life) lighting. We'll consider approaches to lighting glass and metal objects.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will set up lighting and take photographs using the moderator's camera or their own. Participants will share one or two of their photos each week with the group via email for peer review out of class.

RESOURCES: The primary reference is *Light—Science and Magic: An Introduction to Photographic Lighting* by Fil Hunter, Steven Biver, et al. Any edition will do.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: I am an amateur photographer with six decades of photographic experience.

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

Exploring a new origin story and the place of slavery in our country's development

Course #:	F23-NOS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Sara Lennox
Co-Moderator:	Naomi Yanis
Date and Time:	Tuesday - 1:30-3:30PM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE: The book presents a new narrative of U.S. history that centers on the Black experience and shows how the effects of slavery continue to inform the present day. We will explore the topics presented in the first half of the book.

DESCRIPTION: We plan to explore the concepts and information Nikole Hannah-Jones and her fellow authors address in The 1619 Project by discussing one chapter each week. Each session will have only one presentation, leaving us a second hour for discussion of the topic. The fall seminar will look at the first half of the book and will continue in the spring, but each will be independent, not requiring participation in the other.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants will be expected to read a chapter each week. In addition, they will choose to make a presentation related to one of the chapters or to lead a discussion based on one of the chapters.

RESOURCES: The moderators will provide a list of resources.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Sara Lennox directed the UMass Social Thought and Political Economy Program. She serves on the board of Historic Northampton, advised Historic Northampton's Slavery Research Project, and is on the David Ruggles Center and Northampton Reparations committees.

Naomi Yanis, an LIR member since 1996, has taken almost 200 seminars, moderated several, and has served on many committees and as president many years ago. She has had a deep interest in anti-racism throughout her life.

Picture of Nothing

Understanding Abstract Painting and Collage

Course #:	F23-PON
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Ellen Kosmer
Co-Moderator:	Betsy Siersma
Date and Time:	Monday 9:30-11:30AM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this seminar is to understand why some artists rejected representational imagery in favor of abstraction.

DESCRIPTION: Viewers usually have strong reactions to abstract images, ranging from puzzlement to outright hostility. In this seminar we will explore the reasons why some artists chose to abandon the subject, relying only on form, shape, and color to convey their meaning. We will look at artists working in two dimensions, from 1900 to the present. Among the artists considered will be Wassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian, Kurt Schwitters, Jackson Pollock, Agnes Martin, and Julie Mehertu. Most of the artists on our list began working by depicting subject matter realistically, and ultimately arrived at abstraction through their own processes. Agnes Martin, for example, said that she sits and waits for inspiration to come to her. And it does – fully-formed in her mind’s eye – the size of a postage stamp. Using a complicated set of mathematics, she then scales it up to the predetermined size of her canvas.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Participant will select an artist from a list provided by the moderators. Each participant will make a 25-minute presentation on their topic and will facilitate a 25-minute discussion of their topic.

RESOURCES: Books on individual artists and the internet will be valuable resources. Participants can find useful interviews with or about individual artists on YouTube.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Ellen Kosmer is an artist and art historian. Betsy Siersma is an artist and a museum director/curator.

Writing to Remember (Blue)

Writing your own story..

Course #:	F23-WTRB
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Henia Lewin, Carol Jolly
Date and Time:	Monday - 1:30 - 3:30PM Starting 10/2/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE This seminar is intended to help people write about their life, share their stories with others, and hear others' stories.

DESCRIPTION: Whatever we call the form—autobiography, memoir, personal story, family history—writing about one's life is a powerful human need. Many people want to leave behind some record of their thoughts, adventures, and accomplishments. If it's a family story, it will have the added value of telling one's grandchildren about their heritage. Writers are custodians of memory, and too often, memories have a way of dying with their owner. One of the saddest sentences we know is "I wish I had asked my mother about that." In this seminar you'll enjoy writing about your life as well as hearing stories of other people's lives. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all help to make this a rewarding experience for the whole group.

Space is limited as present participants have priority.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant is expected to write at home about his or her life, whether through conversations, letters, vignettes, or in full detail. During the semester everyone will be given two opportunities to present by reading aloud his or her prepared text (one shorter, one longer) and to contribute to the discussions that follow.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS: Henia Lewin taught university courses in Hebrew and Yiddish and received a national Covenant Award as an Outstanding Jewish Educator. She is a Holocaust child-survivor writing her autobiography and has moderated this seminar often.

Carol Jolly has served on FCLIR committees, Council, and as an officer. After sampling some seminars and moderating a few, she took Writing to Remember and has been working for several years on her family history.

Writing to Remember (Green)

Sharing our stories by writing and responding

Course #:	F23-WTRG
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Francie Borden
Date and Time:	Tuesday - 9:30-11:30 AM Starting 9/26/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	10
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE This section for writing to remember, while open to all, is especially to encourage first timers to explore the process.

DESCRIPTION: Writing and memory intersect in this workshop. Each prompts the other and can lead to gaining confidence in our writing while gaining insights into our memories. We will also spend some of our time together exploring and improving our practice of critique and how to make it relevant and helpful to the whole group. Writing is shared by email in advance as well as read aloud by the author. Each participant chooses the format, style, genre and content of their submission and specifies the feedback desired.

Space is limited as present participants have priority.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant will have at least two opportunities to read their work aloud. Work of any length is acceptable, however, presenters will be limited to the amount of time we are each allowed for sharing during our meetings.

All participants participate in the feedback discussions.

RESOURCES: Members of the seminar are encouraged to share books and materials they have found insightful.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Francie has participated in two of the WTR groups and moderated the Purple section for several years.

Writing to Remember (Purple)

Finding and using our voices in personal writing

Course #:	F23-WTRP
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Finnegan Alford-Cooper
Date and Time:	Wednesday - 1:30 - 3:30 PM Starting 9/27/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE This seminar provides participants with an opportunity to write their own stories about their lives, whether it is for other readers or themselves.

DESCRIPTION: The Purple writing group is a chance to write about one's life memories. Each week two or three participants will read their pieces to the group, and the group will offer their responses. Writers email their writing to the group at least 48 hours before they present, so that the readers can have time to read and reflect on the writing. The participants' feedback is enriched by hearing it read by the author's voice during our meeting time. Writers choose the content, style, format, and genre of their writing and tell the other participants what sort of feedback they want.

Space is limited as present participants have priority.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant will write and read two pieces of original work. During the semester everyone will be given two opportunities to present by reading aloud from their prepared text (one shorter and one longer) and to contribute to the discussions that follow. Participants will also offer constructive feedback to others as requested. Together the participants will discuss ideas for conducting the seminar, build a calendar of presentations, and discuss writing generally.

RESOURCES: There are no required readings. Over the course of the seminar, members are encouraged to share their favorite articles and books about personal writing.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Finnegan has participated in Writing to Remember (purple since Spring 2020. She has moderated or co-moderated since 2021.

Writing to Remember (Red)

Autobiographical Writing

Course #:	F23-WTRR
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Catharine Porter, Patricia Callard
Date and Time:	Thursday - 9:30-11:30 AM Starting 9/28/2023, 10 Weeks
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	0

PURPOSE The purpose of this seminar is to share your life experiences with fellow participants and, at the same time, record them for yourself and your family.

DESCRIPTION: Long one of the most popular FCLIR seminars (previously called “Autobiographical Writing”, Writing to Remember offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other better. Many participants have taken advantage of this seminar to write their family story for their children and grandchildren. The writing takes all forms, from rough drafts to polished pieces, and all are welcome. The group offers the writer feedback and, if desired, will offer suggestions for revisions or possible additions, as well as clarifications. The seminar is not a course on how to write; it aims, rather, to stimulate and encourage you to continue writing your own story. Your writing can center on the events of family life, career experiences, or anything else you would like to tell about yourself.

Space is limited as present participants have priority.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each participant has the opportunity to read aloud two pieces of original writing during the semester. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help to make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR: Catharine is a retired UMass faculty member from the Department of Consumer Studies and Ombudsperson. Catharine has moderated this seminar previously. Trish is a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher of writing with children, and grateful for the opportunity now to write stories and get inspired by the stories of others.

Other Ways to Participate

Join a committee, run for Council, join an Interest Group, attend Encore or Great Decision presentations.

Committees

Communications

Coordinates and often executes internal and external FCLIR messages, with particular emphasis on recruiting and retaining new members.

Curriculum

Oversees the central mission of FCLIR. This committee generally meets monthly and is charged with all aspects of maintaining a diverse offering of up to two dozen, peer-led seminars and workshops every fall and spring semester, plus shorter summer seminars/workshops.

Encore

Collects and organizes recommended presentations from the previous semester's seminars and makes them available to the membership and the public on Friday mornings via Zoom or in-person. Encores are some of the best presentations from the previous semester. Nominations are made by moderators from each class. Subjects are wide-ranging.

Extra-Curricular

Coordinates supplementary programs, field trips, and other events, primarily during the summer and winter intersessions.

Great Decisions

Organizes a series of public lectures each spring in conjunction with the Foreign Policy Association.

Social Events

Organizes social events several times a year, including a fall picnic and an annual "New Members' Coffee".

Special Programs

Finds, manages, and offers one-of-a-kind programs or series of programs, usually open to the public as well as the membership. Fees may be charged for attendance. Presenters or performers are often compensated with an honoraria.

Technology

Offer workshops, how-to guides, and individual personal assistance on the multiple technologies and software used by FCLIR members, e.g., Zoom, and PowerPoint.

Interest Groups

To participate in an Interest Group program, membership in FCLIR is required. Members should contact the facilitator. No registration form is needed.

At this time, most FCLIR in-person programs are continuing online via Zoom; please email the contact person below for your preferred interest group for further information.

Members are welcome to propose a new Interest Group. For examples, Foreign language conversation groups are welcome, should anyone have the expertise to lead one. Perhaps a group on social justice might be of interest as well.

Following are the Interest Groups that are currently being offered:

Book Interest Group

Day and Time: Various Fridays, one each month
September – May, 1:30 - 3:00 PM

This long-standing group has been a joy to those of us who have participated. Many of us have commented on the pleasure of meeting books we would not have read otherwise. However, several people decided not to participate on Zoom, and recently several members of many years have moved or ceased to participate for various reasons. We are down to only seven regular members, and would welcome at least three more. Are YOU one of them?

Because one of our members moved to New Hampshire, but continues with us, we will be continuing on zoom. Most other logistics can be changed. In the past we have decided on the year's books in the Spring, with the responsibility for leading the discussions rotated among us. We can decide to do otherwise, perhaps even meeting less often. Do contact Naomi with any questions.

Classic Film Group

Day and Time: Third Thursday of the month, 4:00 PM
December – June

Each month, a participant selects a film for the next session, and prepares to lead an informal discussion. We watch the films on our own time between the meetings. We aim for a minimum of 8 participants (including conveners). Should the number of people who wish to join reach a number that seems too large, the possibility exists for the creation of a new “spin-off” group. New members are encouraged to join.

Reading Round Table

Day and Time: First Wednesday of the month, 4:00 PM
September - May

Join other incurable readers for an informal round table one Wednesday afternoon a month. Whether you prefer literary fiction, biographies, nonfiction, science fiction, plays, detective series, or graphic novels, you're welcome to join this eclectic group. We talk about what we're currently reading (or listening to), where we get our recommendations, trends in publishing, and anything else that interests us. No prerequisite or homework!

Reading the Classics

Day and Time: Fourth Thursday of the month, 2:00 PM
January, March, May, July, September, and November

This is a book group focused on books considered to be classics of literature. Each month a new book is read, and discussed at the meeting.

Viewpoints

Day and Time: Third Thursday of the month, 2:00-3:30 PM

Viewpoints is a monthly round-table discussion of current domestic and international events and issues (often, but not always, political), and other subjects not necessarily tied to the headlines of the day (such as the culture war, free speech restrictions in schools and colleges, and policing and firearms). Each month's participants choose four topics for roughly 20 minute discussions.

Feminism: Our Stories, Ourselves

Day and Time: Third Tuesday of the month, 4:00-5:30 PM

This is a group of women who meet monthly to discuss life experiences, focusing on such topics as: the experience of aging and ageism, health issues, political concerns, using tie wisely, gender roles, family ties, and friendship.

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