

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**  
*Peer-Led Lifelong Learning*



# 5CLIR REPORTER

October 2019 Volume XXXII, Number 8

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## CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- 4 Deadline for spring 2020 seminar proposals
- 3 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
- 3 Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
- 10 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Applewood in Amherst  
**\*\*\* note location change \*\*\***

## SAVE THE DATE!

### **SPRING 2020 PREVIEW/ OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Willetts-Hallowell Conference Center  
Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley

## **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear LIR Members,

Our September potluck picnic was a wonderful kick off to the new LIR season. The weather was great and Gail and John Gaustad's backyard was the perfect setting. I was glad that so many people were able to attend, and that we all had the chance to catch up and to meet many of our newest members.



As I read through this month's newsletter, I was impressed by how many activities there are in addition to seminars that make LIR such a rich and vibrant organization. A number of interest groups will soon be underway again this year. "Opera Prep", "Viewpoints" and "Encore Presentations" are just a few on the list that also includes reading and poetry interest groups. The Activities Committee is researching outings to take place over the next few months, and the Technology Committee is back after a hiatus and again available to help members navigate the mazes of various technological resources.

I do want to mention that the deadline to propose seminars for the Spring of 2020 is coming up fast (October 4<sup>th</sup>), and we are looking for several more members to be moderators. We are always deeply grateful to those members who volunteer to become moderators. If you're thinking about moderating, the Curriculum Committee is a great support and resource. They are available to answer questions, and to support "rookies" by helping them develop ideas or proposals. They can also suggest a veteran moderator to mentor or even to co-moderate with you. Whether you have a great idea or simply an interest, I encourage you to take that first step and contact the Curriculum Committee.

Talking about great ideas, a proposal was made to have an LIR Art Exhibit to display works created by members. It's still in the very early stages, and if you're interested in helping out or displaying a work of art, please contact the Projects and Events Committee.

Autumn seems to inspire action. Maybe it's the crisp air that makes us walk more briskly, or maybe it's watching how the leaves move through their cycle of colorful changes that makes us want to get moving, ourselves. However, you define its magic, autumn is the perfect time of year for LIR to embark on its new season of seminars and activities.

*Keep me walking, October road.  
Keep me walking in the sunshine, yeah  
A little friend of mine, October road, help me now.*

*Let the sun run down right behind the hill,  
I know how to stand there till the moon rise up  
Right behind the pine, oh, October road. – James Taylor*

Jake

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## **‘All About PowerPoint’**

This was a highly successful workshop, designed to help members gain familiarity with this digital slide projection software, led by Jim Harvey, with help from Wendy Parrish and other members of the Tech Committee.



## **SPRING SEMINAR PROPOSALS DUE OCT.4!**

If so, we would like you to consider coming forward with a seminar proposal for spring 2020. You can do this with a co-moderator if you wish.

Think of something that interests you, go to  
**[www.5CLIR.org/Resources/5CLIR Forms/Proposal Forms](http://www.5CLIR.org/Resources/5CLIR%20Forms/Proposal%20Forms)**  
and fill out the form.

You may find a list of past seminars useful.  
Go to [www.5CLIR.org/Resources/5CLIR Documents/List of past seminars](http://www.5CLIR.org/Resources/5CLIR%20Documents/List%20of%20past%20seminars).

If you need help, please get in touch with one of us:

Betsy Siersma (413)584-7053 [siersma@acad.umass.edu](mailto:siersma@acad.umass.edu)

Kendra Dahlquist (413)341-3415 [keadahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:keadahlquist@gmail.com)

Co-chairs, Curriculum Committee



## ON HEARING LOSS



Many members of 5CLIR have some degree of hearing loss. Moderators should mention this fact at the first session, and try to arrange seating to maximize the chances for all participants to hear clearly.

Individual presenters are urged to keep the following in mind.:

- Whenever possible, stand when you present. Voices carry much better when you do.
- Know your materials well enough not to have to turn your face constantly downward, reading your manuscript. Look up as often as you can, and channel the sound coming out of your mouth to your audience, not to your desktop.
- People who have difficulty hearing clearly need to be able to read your lips as well, and they can't do so if they can't see them.
- Don't be reluctant to use a microphone, on the often mistaken assumption that your voice will be clearly heard by everyone. When using one, talk into the top of the microphone, not into its side.
- When fielding a question, repeat the question so that everyone hears it.

## **WHAT COMMITTEE?**

THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE HAS BECOME .....

### **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

This committee has oversight over ongoing programs that are open to all members throughout the year. These do not require registration, and are only limited in size by space considerations. Please go to [www.5clir.programs](http://www.5clir.programs) for details, and contact the organizers if you wish to participate..

THE WINTER/SUMMER COMMITTEE HAS BECOME.....

### **ACTIVITIES**

This committee has been expanded to include one day and short series programs, most of which, but not all, occur between the seminar semesters. Included are what was formerly the Winter-Summer programming, plus theater outings and music programs.

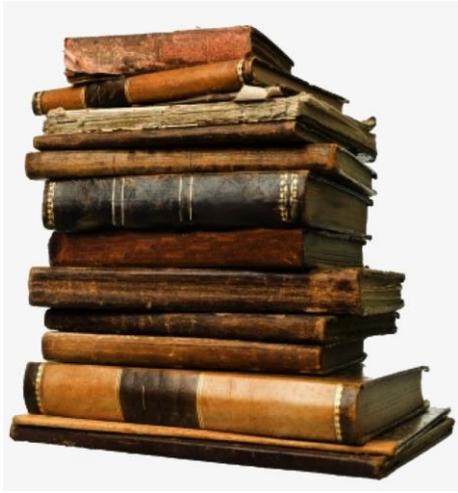
### **THE TECH COMMITTEE**

has been reinvigorated to develop workshops offering technical support to members, as well as the ongoing available help list (in this newsletter).

### **THE MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

This committee has been re-established to expand communications and outreach to current and potential members, and will include the (former) Public Relations Committee.

## NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



A new group "**Reading the Classics**" will meet monthly, on the **fourth Thursday of the month** starting **January 23, 2020**.

Organized and led by Lise Armstrong, the study group will give serious attention to a range of English language classics.

An initial meeting will be held on Thursday October 24 from 2-4 p.m. at the Armstrong's apartment at Applewood. We will discuss what qualifies as a classic and develop a preliminary reading list. The group will be limited to twelve members and meet in members' homes where practical.

The first two titles for 2020 are *The Warden* by Anthony Trollope and *My Antonia* by Willa Cather.

Contact Lise at 549-9171 or [esarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:esarmstrong@comcast.net) with questions or to register for the October meeting.

## **2019 FALL ENCORE PRESENTATIONS**

Encore presentations this fall are scheduled for 10:00-Noon in the lower level meeting room at Applewood Retirement Community, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. Please park on Spencer Drive, not in the parking lots.

\*\*\* A note to Applewood residents: You are *all* welcome, come join us!

### **September 27, 2019**

#### ***Carpets from Iran***

Presenter: Nina Scott

Seminar: History & Culture of Iran

Description: After oil, Iranian carpets are one of the most important exports of the country. This presentation lays out the process of weaving, traditional designs, and recent deep changes which are affecting an artistic industry which has flourished for centuries. In preparation for this talk, please view the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaBsaQwwV7Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyQWEItxWYk>

#### ***The Nuclear Agreement with Iran***

Presenter: Roger Webb

Seminar: The History and Culture of Iran

Description: Iran's foreign policy and its search for nuclear weapons. What's involved in making a nuke, why Iran wants one, and how the US and other countries have attempted to prevent them getting one.

### **October 4, 2019**

#### ***How to Behave Badly in Elizabethan England***

Presenter: Christine Heckman

Seminar: The Elizabethan Era

Description: Learn how to insult, mock or threaten almost anyone during the Elizabethan period, as well as rude things to do with your hat and an introduction to staff-fighting. Pictures and demonstrations included.

#### ***Stefan Zweig and his World of Yesterday***

Presenter: Richard Stonberg

Seminar: European Destiny & the Hapsburgs

Description: After decades of relative obscurity, the life and career of Jewish biographer and dramatist Stefan Zweig (1881-1942) has been rediscovered as witnessed by director Wes Anderson's film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, based on Zweig's novels and short stories. Zweig's final work, *The World of Yesterday*, is a fascinating chronicle of 3 ages: the Golden Days of Vienna that ended with WWI; that war and its aftermath; and the Hitler years. In exile in Brazil, Zweig's memoir proved to be both an autobiography and a long suicide note since both he and his wife Lotte killed themselves the day after he posted the manuscript to his publisher.

**October 11, 2019**

***Co-evolution of language and brain***

Presenter: John Armstrong

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: All animals communicate, but only humans have language...many thousands of languages. Recent developments in various sciences have shed light on how this may have come to pass: a universal language instinct, but no universal human language.

***The role of culture in language***

Presenter: Gene Fisher

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: It is impossible to imagine human society without language. Yet, it is also impossible to understand the origin and evolution of language without culture. Culture invents language to unify society around its knowledge, roles, and values.

**October 18, 2019**

***Andreas Vesalius and William Harvey***

Presenter: Edward Brandt

Seminar: The Age of Reason

Description: The accomplishments of these two transformative figures created the foundation of our fascination and interest in human biology and medicine. Their work challenged the dogma of their time periods. Vesalius and Harvey emerged from the Renaissance to free medicine from superstition and revolutionize scientific research.

***Noam Chomsky***

Presenter: Tom Jones

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: Exactly what is language, why is it unique to humans, and how did it begin? These questions have been hotly debated over the last 150 years. This presentation will introduce the views of four of the most important, even controversial, figures in these debates.

**October 25, 2019**

***Populating the Americas***

Presenter: Kathy Campbell

Seminar: Humanity's Past

Description: What have we learned from the new science of ancient DNA sequencing about the arrival of humans in the western hemisphere? Have older theories been confirmed or overturned? Has the result been greater clarity or greater confusion? This talk is a review of the evolution of our knowledge over the last century.

***Languages of North America***

Presenter: Clarise Patton

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: There seem to be 3 sets of languages in all of North America. In the US portion of languages, they can differ as much as Chinese and English, and have some fascinating characteristics like Having to specify how you know something - did you see it, hear about it, or assume it due to other things. Also, a Cherokee man, having heard about 'talking leafs' developed a written language which is still in use today.

## November 1, 2019

### ***Comfort and Connection - A Reader's Theater***

Presenter: Jane Holloway

Seminar: Dealing with Dying and Death

Description: 12 actors will present Journey with Ed, the true story of a woman and her dying husband as they consciously and lovingly work through their final months together, finding comfort, meaning, even creating their own special rituals. It's a story of love and loss, but also one of connection as a circle of dear friends offer their support through emails.

Handouts include ways to provide comfort for the patient and support for the caregiver, even if you live far away.

### ***Boston Police Strike***

Presenter: Bonnie Vigeland

Seminar: Boston 1919

Description: Exactly a hundred years ago, the city of Boston experienced a year of unprecedented unrest - economic, social, political, racial – that culminated in an explosive police strike that gripped the city for days and had repercussions across the country. My talk will explore some of the national movements that led to the strike (divisive politics, race riots, anti-immigration sentiments, labor issues), the specific events of those days in Boston, and the tensions that remain unresolved today.

## November 8, 2019

### ***Holyoke's Mills and Canals***

Presenter: Carol Walker

Seminar: 1800's Massachusetts Architecture

Description: This presentation focuses on the mills of the City of Holyoke, the first planned industrial community in the United States. Still known today as the Paper City, Holyoke was the largest paper manufacturing city in the world, producing an estimated 80% of the writing paper used in the U.S. It was also home to the world's largest silk and alpaca wool mills as well as the most famous architectural firm specializing in water-driven mills.

### ***Holger Cahill (1887-1960) and American Art under the WPA***

Presenter: Ruth V. Elcan

Seminar: FDR's Supporting Cast

Description: We can all be glad that the WPA kept some artists from starving, but did anything of lasting value come out of federal support for visual art during the Great Depression? The common answer is "not much," but the programs conceived by New Deal arts program director Holger Cahill suggest "quite a lot." Who was this unlikely administrator and why are his achievements for American art mostly unrecognized now?

November 15, 2019

***Memoir***

Presenter: Fred Bogin

Seminar: Techniques of Memoir Writing

Description: After 38 years of pediatric practice and a number of years writing about memorable patients, Fred has turned his pen toward his experiences as a patient and the parent of an adult child with serious illness. He will read two relatively brief essays, one about his own open-heart surgery, and one about his daughter's successful battle with cancer.

***Charles Dickens***

Presenter: Alan Armstrong

Seminar: Victorian Britain

Description: (n/a)

**2019-2020 OPERA PREP**

The Met  
ropolitan  
Opera

Live in HD at Cinemark Hadley

It's fall and opera season is upon us. See the Cinemark schedule below, and note the afternoon Encore series.

Prep talks are held at the Inn at Lathrop in Easthampton, 2 to 3 p.m. on the Friday before the Saturday opera.

Big changes this year at Cinemark!

All seats are reserved. No need for early rush to get preferred seating.

Theatres will be accessible at 11:30 for the Saturday starts at 12:55, at 12:30 for the Wednesday afternoon encore starts at 1:00, and at 6:00 for the Wednesday evening encore starts at 6:30.

Tickets for any or all operas are available now at the Cinemark Box Office.

This year, tickets may also be purchased on-line at Cinemark.com.

Multiple on-line purchases are eligible for discounts.

Questions? Email Peg Bedell at [peggotty25@gmail.com](mailto:peggotty25@gmail.com)

**2019-2020 SCHEDULE**

<b>PREP DATE</b>	<b>OPERA DATE</b>	<b>OPERA TITLE &amp; AUTHOR</b>	<b>RUN TIME</b>	<b>ENCORE DATE</b>
10/11	10/12	Turandot (Puccini)	3.25	10/16
10/25	10/26	Manon (Massenet)	4.15	10/30
11/8	11/9	Madama Butterfly (Puccini)	3.35	11/13
11/22	11/23	Akhenaten (Glass)	4.00	12/4
1/10	1/11	Wozzeck (Berg)	2.00	1/15
1/31	2/1	Porgy and Bess (Gershwin)	3.40	2/5
2/28	2/29	Agrippina (Handel)	4:10	3/4
3/13	3/14	Der Fliegende Hollander (Wagner)	2.45	3/18
4/10	4/11	Tosca(Puccini)	3.20	4/15
5/8	5/9	Maria Stuarda (Donizetti)	3.10	5/13

## **TECH ASSISTANCE: Individual Tech Help is Available**

The Technology Committee is pleased to announce that it will offer one-on-one assistance to members of 5CLIR who have questions regarding a range of digital devices and selected software. Should you need tech help, please email the appropriate Tech Committee member for assistance with the type of device or software that concerns you. Note that while we will attempt to satisfactorily solve your problem, we cannot guarantee a solution.

Apple/Mac OS:	Kathy Campbell Gordon Wyse	<a href="mailto:ksmithcamp@post.harvard.edu">ksmithcamp@post.harvard.edu</a> <a href="mailto:gwyse@bio.umass.edu">gwyse@bio.umass.edu</a>
Windows XP:	Dean Poli	<a href="mailto:poli@ecs.umass.edu">poli@ecs.umass.edu</a>
Windows 7:	Jim Scott	<a href="mailto:nmscott@spanport.umass.edu">nmscott@spanport.umass.edu</a>
Windows 8 - 10:	Larry Ambs	<a href="mailto:ambs@umass.edu">ambs@umass.edu</a>
Linux OS :	John Armstrong	<a href="mailto:johna.armstrong@comcast.net">johna.armstrong@comcast.net</a>
Android Cell Phones:	Larry Ambs	<a href="mailto:ambs@umass.edu">ambs@umass.edu</a>
iPhones:	Gordon Wyse Jim Scott	<a href="mailto:gwyse@bio.umass.edu">gwyse@bio.umass.edu</a> <a href="mailto:nmscott@spanport.umass.edu">nmscott@spanport.umass.edu</a>
iPad:	Jim Scott	<a href="mailto:nmscott@spanport.umass.edu">nmscott@spanport.umass.edu</a>
Word:	Bobbie Reitt	<a href="mailto:redits@comcast.net">redits@comcast.net</a>

## **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	Jake Greenburg
	Vice President	Nancy Denig
	Treasurer	Nancy Mihevc
	Asst. Treasurer	Robert Cohen
	Secretary	Bev von Kries
	Past President	Ellen Kosmer
	At Large	Linda Honan
		Jay Russell
		Terry Rosenfeld
		Pat Jorzak
		Margaret Russell
		Gene Fisher
		Laura Price
5C Liason	Ombudsperson	Kip Fonsh
	Historian	James Lee
		Larry Ambs
		Anne Lombard
		Sara Wright
Committee Chairs	Activities	Mary Franks, Karen Tatro
	Curriculum	Betsy Siersma, Kendra Dahlquist
	Finance	Nancy Mihevc
	Great Decisions	Rich Parrish
	Member Events	Brigid Glackin, Catharine Porter
	Membership & Outreach	Wendy Parrish, Pat Jorzak
	Nominating	Margaret Russell
	Ongoing Programs	Wendy Parrish, Norma Johnson
	Projects & Events	Ellen Kosmer
	Technology	Gordon Wyse

## 5CLIR CALENDAR

### July 2019 – June 2020

July		No Executive Committee Meeting No Curriculum Committee Meeting No Council Meeting
August	1	Curriculum Committee Meeting
	1	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	8	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
September	5	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	5	Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	12	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	17	5CLIR Potluck Lunch Picnic
	18	(picnic rain date)
	23	First day of fall seminars
October	4	Deadline for spring 2020 seminar proposals
	3	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	3	Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	10	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Applewood in Amherst
November	7	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	7	Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	14	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	17	Spring 2020 Preview/ Open House, 2:00-3:45 Willets-Hallowell Center, Mt Holyoke College
	18	Registration opens for Spring 2020 seminars
December	6	Registration deadline for inclusion in spring 20120 seminar lottery
	5	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	5	Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	12	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
<b>2020</b>		
January	9	Memorial Program, 10:00-Noon, Amherst College, Alumni House, Amherst
	10	Snow date for Memorial Program No Executive Committee meeting No Curriculum Committee meeting No Council meeting
February	6	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	6	Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	13	Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
	TBA	Moderators' Meeting
	20	New Members Coffee, 10:00-Noon, Lathrop Northampton Community Room
	24	First day of spring seminars
March	6	Deadline for fall 2020 seminar proposals
	5	Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.

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|-------|-----|--|
|       | 5   | Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.   |
|       | 12  | Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |
| April | 2   | Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |
|       | 2   | Curriculum Committee, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.   |
|       | TBA | Spring Social  |
|       | 16  | Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc   |
|       | 30  | Last day of spring seminars  |
| May   | 3   | Annual Meeting and 2020 Fall Preview/ Open House, 1:30-4:00,<br>Smith College Campus Center, Northampton |
|       | 7   | Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |
|       | 7   | Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.   |
|       | 14  | Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |
|       | 15  | Registration deadline for inclusion in fall 2020 seminar lottery   |
| June  | 4   | Executive Committee meeting, 1:15-2:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |
|       | 4   | Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.   |
|       | 11  | Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.  |

*5CLIR REPORTER is published by*  
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