

Five College Learning In Retirement



Mt Norwottuck and Apple Tree by Lana Ritz

2022 SPRING PROGRAMS

ABOUT US: FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

History

The Learning in Retirement movement began some thirty-five years ago at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Now generally called "Life-Long Learning Institutes" or LLI, such organizations are blossoming around the country. 5CLIR is now one of the more established of the many LLIs around the country and one of the more autonomous.

Founded in 1988-1989, Five College Learning in Retirement (5CLIR) serves the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. It is sponsored by Five Colleges, Incorporated, a consortium formed by Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Who are Our Members?

Our members are a diverse group of intellectually curious individuals who want to pursue new fields of interest or to revisit interests too long neglected. We are characterized by a willingness to share the knowledge and insights we have gained over lifetimes variously experienced.

Volunteer standing and ad hoc committees are responsible for all programs and activities under the direction of an elected Council and Officers.

The Programs

Peer-led seminars and workshops are the core activities of Five College Learning in Retirement and are designed to engage the active learner. Each spring and fall, 20 to 25 peer-learning seminars and workshops are offered. These classes are coordinated by members and are different every session. In addition, a few short seminars may be offered during the summer.

Between the spring and fall sessions, we also coordinate a number of summer and winter programs for members. These extracurricular activities present opportunities to share activities and interests with other members.

In addition to seminars, workshops and programs for members, we sponsor some programs open to the public. These include an annual series called Great Decisions, a Foreign Policy Association program, which provides a forum to discuss pressing foreign policy issues with national experts, as well as occasional special programs.



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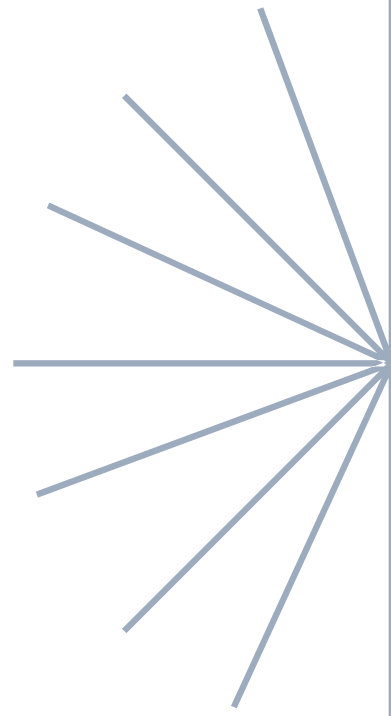
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GREETINGS FROM THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Curriculum Committee

Frost is in the air, leaves are on the ground, and the 10-week Persephone period, when we get less than ten hours of daylight a day, is upon us. But while plants are dormant, thanks to LIR we can keep our minds engaged as we take advantage of our winter programs and start thinking about our spring seminars.

The Curriculum Committee is pleased to present another outstanding collection of seminars, although they are fewer in number than usual. We extend our thanks to our peers who have so generously shared their interests and energy in preparing these offerings. You will be able to meet these moderators at the on-line Preview, Sunday, November 21, at 2 PM. In addition to the information provided in this catalog and at the Preview, many moderators have posted additional information at 5clir.org/2022-spring-seminars/. They also can be reached by email through that page if you have further questions.

There may be different expectations for participants depending on the seminar, but in all of them participants will be actively engaged in sharing information, ideas, and conversation. The Handbooks for Participants and Moderators, found at 5clir.org/5clir-handbooks/, contain comprehensive and useful information. Both are currently being reviewed by the Curriculum Committee, so if you have suggestions to improve them, please send them along!

Please feel free to contact any member of the Curriculum Committee with any questions or ideas. And if you would like to join the committee next year, let us know.

Members of the Curriculum Committee - Term Ends

Kathy Campbell, co-chair - June 30, 2022
Susan Beer, co-chair - June 30, 2023
Jim Averill - June 30, 2022
Elly Rumelt - June 30, 2022
Gene Fisher - June 30, 2022
Janet Nichols - June 30, 2022
Lise Armstrong - June 30, 2023
Hardy Ballantine - June 30, 2023
Tom Jones - June 30, 2023
Nancy Coiner - June 30, 2024
Jake Greenberg - June 30, 2024
Darcy Johnson - June 30, 2024
Stephanie Levin - June 30, 2024
Bobbie Reitt - June 30, 2024

MEMBERSHIP IN FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Our annual membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th.

You must join or renew your LIR membership for the 2021-2022 year prior to the start of any program or seminar beginning after July 1st for which you enroll.

You may join at any time during the year, but fees are not pro-rated.

**NOTE: DUES HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY 20% FOR 2021-2022
as many of our programs remain on line, via Zoom.**

TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Online:

Go to www.5CLIR.org - Paypal is a secure way to pay online using your credit card.

By Mail: follow these simple directions

1. Complete Form on www.5clir.org website
2. Complete the 'New' Pay by Check section
3. Make check payable to 'Five Colleges, Inc'
4. Mail check to LIR office:

Office Manager
Smith College Campus
18 Henshaw Ave, C2, Suite 101
Northampton, MA 01063

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

- Full membership.
- Half-year membership, **an option for new members only.**
- Associate Membership for former Full Members who wish to participate in Winter/Summer and Special Programs, but not in seminars/ workshops.

Continuing Reduced Rates
due to the Pandemic.

COSTS OF MEMBERSHIP

- **\$220 - Full membership** - June 1 to July 30
- **\$110 - Half-year membership** - Single Semester only
- **\$110 - Associate Membership** - former Full Members who wish to participate in Winter/Summer and Special Programs, but not in seminars/ workshops.

LIR Members over the years have generously contributed small dollar donations to a Membership Assistance Fund. If you would like to join LIR but are concerned about the financial burden that the membership fee would cause, please contact the Office Manager for a Confidential Scholarship.

IMPORTANT DETAILS ON REGISTRATION, SCHEDULES & ATTENDANCE

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Registration for Spring 2022 courses opens on Monday, November 22, 2022.
- Registrations can be made online at www.5clir.org or by mail, not by phone.
- Membership dues must be current prior to the start of programs and seminars for which you register.
- Additional information about the registration process can be found at www.5clir.org/programs

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- All registrations received by the office by Friday, December 10, 2021 will be included in the first round of fall class assignments.
- Oversubscribed seminars will be filled by random lottery of all registrations received by the deadline.
- Those not assigned to as many seminars/workshops as requested will be added to wait lists.
- Registration notifications will be sent on or about December 20, 2021.
- Registrations received after the lottery will be added as space is available in requested seminars/workshops, or added to wait lists.
- Wait listed individuals will be notified when a space becomes available.

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

- Changes to seminar schedule are made by the office.
- In the event of low enrollment, a seminar may be cancelled by the Curriculum Committee, in consultation with the moderator.

ABSENCE

- Members who are absent for the first two sessions of a seminar without notifying the moderator may be dropped from the seminar.

WITHDRAWALS

- Withdrawal notification 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.

IMPORTANT DETAILS ON REGISTRATION, SCHEDULES & ATTENDANCE

SEMINAR SCHEDULES

- Most seminars run for 10 weeks. Some run for fewer weeks, or start later.
- Please check the listing for schedule details and dates that the class will not meet.
- Seminars are usually two hours long, and are scheduled Monday through Wednesday mornings and afternoons, and Thursday mornings. Check seminar listings for exact times.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participants should become familiar with their role and responsibilities.
- The Participant's Handbook can be found on the website at: www.5clir.org/resources/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.

5CLIR OMBUDSMAN

- Should a difficulty or situation arise in a seminar that cannot be resolved, the 5CLIR Ombudsman may be contacted for assistance.
- Contact: Anne Lombard at aslombard@comcast.net or at 413-586-7509.

Before Registering, Please Note:

If you know that you will miss the first two sessions of a seminar, or more than two overall, please talk to your moderator(s) to see whether that would be acceptable.

SEMINAR REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

COMPLETING YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

- You do not need to register, as you are pre-enrolled, if you are a Moderator or Co-moderator.
- Enter up to 6 choices, in order of preference. Class assignments are made in sequential order, and one class per time and day. It is best to register for alternate classes in case you are 'lotteried out' of a particular class.
- Enter the TOTAL NUMBER of seminars YOU WISH TO ENROLL IN in the box provided.
- If this box is blank, you will be assigned ONE seminar.
- If you wish to co-enroll with another member, you may only 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.

WRITING TO REMEMBER' MEMOIR SEMINARS

- You may request more than one Writing to Remember seminar, but enrollment is limited to one per semester, in order to accommodate as many members as possible.

REGISTRATION AS AUDITOR

- Auditor status is open only to full members of 5CLIR who have participated in seminars for four or more years and who wish to take seminars, but are unable to fulfill research and presentation requirements, are able to register as an auditor.
- Auditors may have reading or other assignments.
- Registrations made as an auditor are NOT included in the lottery, and are added to seminars following regular enrollment, with the permission of moderators, as indicated on the course description page.

2022 SPRING SEMINAR SCHEDULE

MONDAY AM

22S-BPW: Beat Poets and Writers

*22S-WTC: Watercolor

22S-TSJ: The Sayings of Jesus

MONDAY PM

22S-PSS: Plastics: Saint or Sinner?

22S-GAA: The Golden Age of the
Arabs

22S-WTRB: Writing to Remember
(Blue).

TUESDAY AM

22S-SHC: Shakespeare's
Competitors

22S-FMR: Food Matters

TUESDAY PM

22S-WVSC: West Virginia: State of
Contrasts

22S-RAH: Rethinking American
History.

WEDNESDAY AM

22S-TOR: The Roosevelts' Inner
Circle

*22S-CBAV: Children's Books, Adult
Viewpoints

WEDNESDAY PM

22S-RAC: Revisiting the American
Civil War

22S-BWS: Building a WordPress Site

22S-WTRP: Writing to Remember
(Purple).

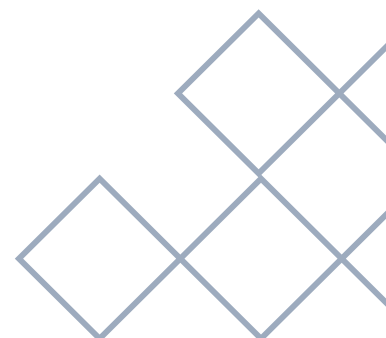
THURSDAY AM

*22S-SHY: Seamus Heaney.

22S-MWW: Museums: A World of
Wonders

22S-WTRR: Writing to Remember
(Red).

*These sessions will be in-person at one of the
Applewood Community Rooms.
Please see the descriptions for more info.



BEAT POETS AND WRITERS

A critical examination

Course #:	22S-BPW
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Kip Fonsh
Date and Time:	Mon, 9:30a to 11:30a 10 weeks, starting 2/21/2021
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	10
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

PURPOSE:

Participants will read, analyze, and discuss the work of Beat poets and writers and facilitate a discussion of their literary legacy.

DESCRIPTION:

Participants will read, analyze, and discuss the work of the Beat poets and writers, including works by Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, Gregory Corso, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Lenny Bruce, Charles Bukowski, Neal Cassady, William Burroughs, Michael McClure, Diane Di Prima, Amiri Baraka, Herbert Huncke, Bob Kaufman, Richard Farina, and David Meltzer.

We will discuss their evaluation of the influence of the Beat poets and writers as well as the 1950's and the 1960's context in which the Beats worked. Finally, we will discuss the legacy of the Beat poets and writers.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will select one poet/writer and present a summary of the writer's biography and critical analysis of their work. Presenters and seminar members will read aloud selections of the poet/writer's work and conclude with a critical discussion of the poet/writer's work.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will help participants locate resources relating to their chosen poet.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Kip has taken numerous courses through 5CLR and is currently moderating a seminar on the Beatles.

WATERCOLOR CLASS

Course #:	22S-WTC
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Turi MacCombie
Date and Time:	Mon, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 8 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Applewood, Amherst Craft Room
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

PURPOSE:

Participants will learn the techniques of watercolor and produce their own watercolors, guided by the moderator and hopefully inspired by others in the class. Participants will be encouraged to follow their own leads, and choose subject matter that excites them.

DESCRIPTION:

This will be a class on the techniques of watercolor. Participants will produce their own watercolors, guided by me, and hopefully inspired as well by others in the class. I will do demonstrations from time to time to show different techniques. Participants will be encouraged to follow their own leads, and choose subject matter that excites them.

This will be a class primarily on watercolor technique, and I will urge everyone to be bold, trust in the serendipitous, and keep it fun. A list of supplies will be provided, and everyone should be aware that the expense can be considerable. Although my own work is quite realistic, if your desire is to paint like John Marin, I will help guide you in that direction as well. Watercolor painting has an undeserved reputation of being unforgiving and difficult. It does have limitations, but overall, the medium is a joy to work in, very rewarding, and one can correct mistakes!

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will fully participate in the Workshop, by painting.
All Participants will be expected to provide their own materials.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Turi has been painting watercolors since she was a student in art school. For many years, while living in NYC, she did children's book illustration, but for the past 20 years she has been painting exclusively for galleries. Her work tends to be large-scale, and focuses mostly on animals and florals. She is currently with Michelson Gallery in Northampton. Over the years she has taught watercolor workshops for the beginning and advanced student.

THE SAYINGS OF JESUS

Their meaning for today

Course #:	22S-TSJ
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gene Fisher
Date and Time:	Mon, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	2

PURPOSE:

We seek to understand the wisdom of Jesus' sayings. in their historical setting and in the context of present-day social life.

DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will use a fourfold classification of Jesus' sayings: parables, aphorisms, dialogues, and stories containing words attributed to Jesus. The moderator will provide lists of sayings in each of the four categories for participants to consider in choosing the topic of their presentation.

Participants will be asked to choose as their topic two or more items from one of the four lists of sayings. The presentation and discussion of these should cover (1) the setting or occasion prompting the utterance of the saying; (2) the interpretation of the saying; (3) the connection, if any, between the saying and sayings of other famous authors, e.g., the Buddha; and (4) how such sayings relate to our social life. Point (3) is optional, but welcome.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will select as their topic two or more sayings from one of the lists provided by the moderator. The sayings chosen should have a common theme or be in some other way interrelated. The presentation will take about 30 minutes and will be followed by a discussion led by the presenter.

RESOURCES:

The Lost Gospel of Q: The Original Sayings of Jesus by Marcus Borg (editor) and Thomas Moore. (Great for background and a listing of all the sayings in the four Gospels.)

<https://www.thingsofthesort.com/bible-studies/2017/8/25/the-hidden-treasure-the-pearl-and-the-net>. (Shows a grouping of three parables and an excellent discussion of their meaning.)

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

A retired sociology professor at the University of Massachusetts, Gene has moderated seven seminars on politics and religion over the past four years.

PLASTICS

Saint or Sinner?

Course #:	22S-PSS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jessie Tropp
Date and Time:	Mon, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting 2/21/2021
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

In this seminar, we'll explore different kinds of plastic, how they are manufactured, their effects on living things and the environment, and what the future is for plastics.

DESCRIPTION:

Plastics were originally developed as a substitute for ivory, to help save elephants from extinction. Now, we think of plastics as an environmental disaster and try to avoid their use. How did plastics go from being the hallmark of the modern world to being evil?

Suggested topics:

(1) The history of plastics; (2) Types of plastics and their uses; (3) Plastic in clothing; (4) Plastics and ocean life; (5) Plastic in packaging; (6) Plastic trash and recycling; (7) Health effects of plastics; (8) Microplastics; (9) Plastic and the petroleum industry; (10) Global reduction in plastic use: is it possible?; (11) Reducing plastic use in our personal lives: is it possible to live a plastic free life?; (12) Medical uses of plastic; (13) The future of plastics.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will select will prepare and present a 30-40 minute presentation. Topics may be chosen from suggestions given, or participants may propose their own topic.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will provide a list of resources in a handout at the Preview.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jessie is a lifelong science lover and recycler who loves learning about how things are made. She previously moderated the seminar on textiles in Fall 2021.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE ARABS

Culture and science from the 7th to 11th centuries in the Arab Empire

Course #:	22S-GAA
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Mon, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	17
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to gain an appreciation of the legacy left by the Arab Empire that stretched from Spain through the Mediterranean to India in the early Middle Ages.

DESCRIPTION:

The Arab world is the focus of many of today's headlines. Wars, conflicts, and terrorism dominate stories about Arab countries. As a result the rich history of the Arab people and their significant contributions to world culture is obscured. For example, many in the West are ignorant of the fact that Arab science and culture were far ahead of Europe's for several centuries.

In this seminar we will trace the rise of the Arab empire from Mohammed's day to its glory days, when it stretched from India to Spain and when Baghdad and Cordoba were the intellectual centers of the world. Though we will examine its rapid military and political expansion after the death of Mohammed, the focus will be on Arab accomplishments in literature, science, visual arts, etc.

NOTE: This is essentially a repeat of the seminar offered in 2015

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant is expected to prepare and deliver a presentation of a half-hour or so and lead a discussion about it, and to participate in discussion of other presentations.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will supply a list of links to internet articles or videos on topics relevant to the seminar's objective. Each participant will read the articles and, hopefully use the insights gained from them in the discussion periods of the seminar.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jim has moderated quite a number of seminars concerned with other cultures. He was born in India and taught in Pakistan for five years, which has given him a life-long interest in understanding the way other societies operate.

WRITING TO REMEMBER (BLUE)

Writing Your Own Story

Course #:	22S-WTRB
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Henry Lewin Carol Jolly
Date and Time:	Mon, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	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 children and grandchildren about their heritage.

Writers are the 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 the stories of other people's lives. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all help make this a rewarding experience for the whole group.

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 from his or her prepared texts (one shorter, one longer), and to contribute to the discussions that follow.

RESOURCES:

N/A

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Henny Lewin taught university courses in Hebrew and Yiddish and received a national Covenant Award as an Outstanding Jewish educator. She's a Holocaust child-survivor writing her autobiography and has moderated this seminar often.

Carol Jolly has served on LIR 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 now on her family history.

SHAKESPEARE'S COMPETITORS

Elizabethan playwrights Christopher Marlowe and John Webster

Course #:	22S-SHC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Linda Honan
Date and Time:	Tues - 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 2/21/2021
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

The Elizabethan theatrical world was rich in novel and exciting dramas by many playwrights beside Shakespeare. Among these, Marlowe and Webster excelled. In this seminar we will examine their work both on its own and in comparison with Shakespeare's.

DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will examine the lives and dramatic works of two of Shakespeare's most important contemporaries and competitors among Elizabethan playwrights, Christopher Marlowe and John Webster. In the reign of Elizabeth I dramatic plays were a major entertainment for all classes of society. Christopher Marlowe was born in 1564, the same year as Shakespeare. Like Shakespeare, he was born to a working-class family, but unlike Shakespeare, he was highly educated, earning a master's degree at Oxford. He published many translations from the Latin, but wrote plays in English. His works include *Tamburlaine*, followed by *The Jew of Malta*, *Doctor Faustus*, and others. John Webster was born in 1580 to a working-class family, and he became a lawyer. Webster's plays are intellectual, and he is best known for his tragedies: *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi*, and a tragicomedy, *The Devil's Law Case*.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will choose a topic from a list the moderator will supply (or another of their own choosing, after discussion with the moderator) and will present a paper lasting 20-30 minutes to allow time for discussion.

RESOURCES:

Marlowe: *Four Plays: Tamburlaine, Parts One and Two, The Jew of Malta, Edward II and Dr Faustus*, by Christopher Marlowe, ed. Brian Gibbons (Methuen: New Mermaids Anthologies).
John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi and Other Plays: The White Devil; The Duchess of Malfi; The Devil's Law-Case; A Cure for a Cuckold* (Oxford: Oxford World's Classics)

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Linda Honan is a retired museum educator and university administrator who lives happily in the Pioneer Valley.

FOOD MATTERS

We are what we eat

Course #:	22S-FMR
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Nina Scott Katy Van Geel
Date and Time:	Tues, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

PURPOSE:

We want to talk about food, specifically, about the food you were fed by your parents and the food you eat now. We will share memories and recipes of dishes important to your family, from canned spaghetti to haute cuisine.

DESCRIPTION:

Food matters, because it literally has made you who you are, and also because it speaks volumes about family traditions, which have also made you who you are.

Christina Baker Kline echoes this thought in her book entitled *The Way Life Should Be*. "It's impossible to look at family traditions without talking about food: why we eat, what we do, at home as well as on the street and in restaurants. What does the food we eat say about who we are?"

Family traditions can range from obeying the Sabbath, to fish sticks on Fridays, to TV dinners, to making pickles and canning applesauce, to growing a vegetable garden, to learning how to make specific ethnic foods, to holiday fare.

And don't forget the family stories that involve food. Every family has them, and we want to hear yours.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Ask yourself: what does the food you ate/eat say about who we were/are? Begin by asking yourself what motivated you to want to take this seminar. What food-related thoughts first came into your mind? Begin your presentation with that, and go from there.

If you want to demonstrate a specific technique or just how you cook something, we can talk about how to set up your computer in your kitchen so others can watch.

And of course, somewhere along the line you may have read a book that influenced your food habits. Share your thoughts!

RESOURCES:

Your memories, your favorite cookbook, your recipe card box.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Katy and Nina have moderated five previous seminars dealing with food.

WEST VIRGINIA: STATE OF CONTRASTS

Its history, people, politics, beauty, tourism, resources, industries, rivers, and music

Course #:	22S-WVSC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	James Scott
Date and Time:	Tues, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	17
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

This seminar creates the opportunity to learn about the diversity and complexity of this state, which normally has a low profile in the midst of many apparently more dynamic neighbors.

DESCRIPTION:

On a map West Virginia appears in the middle of larger, more familiar states. It is the only state that is totally within what is labelled as Appalachia, with enduring consequences.

At the height of the Civil War in 1863, West Virginia became, with much controversy, the 35th state of the United States. Differences between eastern and western populations mirrored the divisions between North and South.

The geographic location of West Virginia highly influenced its immigrant populations through exploitation of natural resources: fossil fuels, timber, and minerals. These populations brought a range of cultural values in ethnic foods, music, and domestic handicrafts. This is reflected in today's culture.

Throughout its history the role of labor is significant. Recent changes in national environmental priorities created major consequences in the state's labor markets. As a result, its political complexion has evolved from Democratic, union-based politics to a right-wing populist majority.

The seminar will offer a rich array of topics to choose from.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

The participant will select a topic for research and presentation, with the approval of the moderator, and prepare a presentation of 20 to 30 minutes and lead a discussion on that topic in the time that follows.

RESOURCES:

There is no single text or reference for this course.

The Internet is the resource of first choice, as most of these topics are so contemporary as to not be in print.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jim Scott was born in Huntington, West Virginia, in 1937, and his parents migrated from Michigan in 1929. His brother still lives there. Jim has been a member of 5CLIR for more than twenty years and moderated many seminars on a variety of subjects, including science, history, and industry.

RETHINKING AMERICAN HISTORY

A critical exploration of how and why we learned the history of our country

Course #:	22S-RAH
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Francie Borden Nancy Denig
Date and Time:	Tues, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to provide a setting in which to examine and explore some of the key narratives, concepts, and metaphors that define and determine our own understanding of our own national history.

DESCRIPTION:

The last five years have confronted us with challenges to the comfortable assumptions about our country and its history acquired from our cultures, families, education, and reading over time. How we acquired those assumptions and the challenges modern historians, pundits, and politicians have presented to them is our starting point. We will likely find holes in our knowledge that need to be filled, but our focus will be on the uses and abuses of the historical narratives as we have experienced them. We grew up believing in American exceptionalism in the wake of victory in WWII. Since then we have seen that faith erode. Recently, Occupy, ME TOO, BLM, and MAGA have challenged our understanding of American history. What are the implications of these changed perspectives? By sharing our assumptions, we hope to develop a better understanding of others who differ from us and to gain insight into not just what divides America, but what unites us as well.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants, alone, in pairs, or teams, will choose and explore an issue, era, or event in American history to share and discuss with the class, using any engaging medium they choose: e.g., presentation, hand-outs, demonstration, exercises. Presentations should be less about imparting facts and more on inspiring discussion. What you have learned about the issue—yes— but also how you have learned it? How has history presented it? How has its presentation changed over time? Why is it relevant today? Time allotments will vary in accord with subject matter and size of the session leadership.

RESOURCES:

To provide a frame for our explorations, we strongly encourage reading the "1619 Project" as presented in the New York Times August 14, 2019, and the "1776 Report"— both available on line or in expanded book form. A free subscription to Heather Cox Richardson's daily "Letters from an American" is equally encouraged.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Francie Borden loved, learned, and taught history for decades and still loves learning it. Nancy Denig has been steeped in history since childhood in the lands of the Wampanoag native peoples, Pilgrims, and Puritans.

THE ROOSEVELTS' INNER CIRCLE

The achievements of the relatives and influential persons associated with Teddy and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Course #:	22S-TOR
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Larry Ambs
Date and Time:	Wed - 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks starting 2/21/2021
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

The contributions of TR and FDR are well known, but Roosevelts' inner circle have also made significant contributions to our society. In this seminar we will examine the impacts these other individuals have made.

DESCRIPTION:

The role of TR and FDR in our country's history is well known. However, the importance of their siblings and family along with certain influential people is not as well known. We will consider the importance of their parents, three wives, four siblings, twelve children, and a select group of friends and associates on the careers of TR and FDR as well as their own individual contributions to our country. Numerous presidents have utilized confidants during their lives. In some cases, they have been members of their family or their staff and in other cases they have been social acquaintances. FDR found it beneficial to relax with these individuals, which in some cases included women whose company he appreciated. A potential list of all these individuals will be distributed at the Preview.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will prepare a brief presentation and lead a discussion on a chosen family member or associate of TR or FDR. Individuals that could be included are any of the children and siblings of TR and FDR as well as other significant persons in their personal and professional lives.

RESOURCES:

There are many publications on these individuals. The moderator can suggest suitable publications. One of significance is the Ken Burns and PBS series *The Roosevelts— An Intimate History* in video and text.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Larry Ambs has moderated many seminars on topics ranging from political history to historical archaeology and the sciences.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS, ADULT VIEWPOINTS

Revisiting the world of children's literature

Course #:	22S-CBAV
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Christine Heckman
Date and Time:	Wed, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to bring a fresh, adult perspective to the enduring works of children's fiction. Do we love them today as much as we loved them as children? Let's read together and find out!

DESCRIPTION:

In this seminar we will read and discuss books that were popular children's fiction when we were growing up, specifically those that were published prior to World War II, and excluding picture books, folk tales, and nonfiction. Why did we love those books so much at that time of our lives? How do these books stand up to our adult sensibilities? Do we find them to be darker and more violent than we remember? Or, at the other end of the spectrum, are they too saccharine? How do we feel about instances of sexism, racism, classism, or religious bias? We might also discuss the role of these books in shaping, for better or worse, the adults we are today.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

As a participant, you will select and read a book from the list provided by the moderator. Because it is important to bring a fresh, adult perspective to the literature, the book should either be one that you loved as a child but have not reread since then, or a childhood classic that you somehow missed. You will then give a 30-minute presentation on the book, followed by a discussion period of up to 30 minutes. In order to facilitate these discussions, participants are encouraged to read as many of these books as possible.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will provide a list of suggested books, or the participant may select a book or books that meet the guidelines. All the books on the list are available as inexpensive paperbacks, or they may be borrowed from local libraries.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Chris is a relative newcomer to 5CLR, and this is her first try at leading a seminar. She is a retired elementary school librarian with a lifelong love of children's literature.

REVISITING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Course #:	22S-RAC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Janet Nichols Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Wed, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to obtain a greater understanding of the American Civil War and its ongoing impact upon current US history.

DESCRIPTION:

The United States Civil War (1861-1865) still has a major impact in our country today. We will look at what led to the war and the effect of this complex, seminal event in our nation's history. We plan to start by briefly reviewing the reasons for the war. The bulk of the seminar will cover the war itself, including such familiar aspects as a few of the major battles (up to three) and important personalities. We will also explore some of the less frequently discussed aspects, such as the Union or Confederate relationship with Great Britain and other countries, the role of women, the role of enslaved people in the North and the South, the role of King Cotton, and support (or lack thereof) for the war itself in the North and South.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will be expected to prepare and deliver a presentation of 30-40 minutes' duration, to participate in class discussion, and to review/read the recommended book or other sources about the Civil War.

RESOURCES:

There is no one required book, but a strongly recommended book is *The Civil War: A Visual History*, Senior Editors: Jemma Dunne, Paula Regan, Dorling Kindersley (Smithsonian, 2015). In addition, various videos will supplement the text.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jim Harvey has a long-standing interest in history and other cultures, particularly those that are important to today's world. He has moderated over thirty seminars. Janet Nichols, a retired college business instructor, has been an ardent student of history her entire life and participated in two history seminars. This is her first co-moderator role.

BUILDING A WORDPRESS SITE

Course #:	22S-BWS
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Katherine Campbell
Date and Time:	Wed, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

PURPOSE:

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to create a basic WordPress site of their own and/or contribute to the sites of other organizations, including the new 5clir.org web site.

DESCRIPTION:

WordPress powers more than 40% of the web sites on the internet. Its popularity rests on two pillars: it is a well-maintained open-source system, and a site can be built by anyone who can work with applications such as Word. No previous experience with web sites is required for this workshop.

The joint project of the participants in this workshop will be the creation of a web site. In the process we will learn a little about modern content management systems, and we will explore one of them, WordPress, in great detail. Topics to be covered include: basic site structure and settings; content creation and organization; using the core tools that are packaged with WordPress; finding and using third-party add-ons; and modifying the appearance of the site. We will create "blogs," implement different ways to help viewers navigate the site, and build a "front page." The resulting site could become part of the 5CLIR site.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will create and maintain a part of the site. Some "homework" will be required, to be shared with the group at least every two weeks. In addition, participants will work individually or in teams to research a more specialized aspect of site building and demonstrate the results to the group.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will provide a list of on-line resources. Print resources go out of date quickly.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Kathy is a self-taught web site builder and is currently webmaster for LWV Amherst.

WRITING TO REMEMBER (PURPLE)

Finding and Using our voices in personal writing

Course #:	22S-WTRP
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Finnegan Alford-Cooper
Date and Time:	Wed, 1:30 - 3:30 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	0

PURPOSE:

The 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. Each writer emails his/her writing to the group at least 48 hours before he/she presents, so that the readers can have time to read and reflect on the writing. The participants' feedback is enriched by hearing it read in 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.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will write and read two pieces of original work (one longer piece and one shorter piece). 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 MODERATORS:

Finnegan has participated in Writing to Remember Purples since Spring 2020, and is currently co-moderating this Fall, 2021, with Francie Borden.

SEAMUS HEANEY

Poems and Plays

Course #:	22S-SHY
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Lise Armstrong
Date and Time:	Thurs, 9:30 to 11:30 am 10 weeks, starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Applewood, Amherst Meeting Room
Max # of Participants:	15
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

We will study a good number of Heaney's poems and sample excerpts from his translations of Old English, Greek, and Latin poetry and drama.

DESCRIPTION:

Seamus Heaney (1939-2014) now surpasses Yeats as Ireland's most admired poet. His poetry commands a world-wide audience. The citation for his 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature reads "for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth which exalt the everyday miracles and the living past."

Heaney, oldest of nine children, grew up on a farm in Northern Ireland and benefited from a university education that enabled him to read and translate classics such as *Beowulf* and the *Aeneid*. His subject matter ranges over Ireland's history and politics, rural life, family relationships, and the craft of poetry.

Heaney's drama *The Cure at Troy* is the source of the verse used in Joe Biden's recent political campaign:

"History says, *Don't hope / On this side of the grave. / But then, once in a lifetime / The longed-for tidal wave / Of justice can rise up, / And hope and history rhyme.*"

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will be responsible for reading the background material provided by the moderator and leading discussions of two or three poems, one or more assigned by the moderator and some to be chosen by the participant. The class as a whole will discuss the translations.

RESOURCES:

These books are recommended but not required:

100 Poems, by Seamus Heaney (all the poems we will be studying are in this book but they may also be found elsewhere)

The Aeneid Book VI, a new verse translation by Seamus Heaney

Beowulf, a new verse translation by Seamus Heaney

The Burial at Thebes, a version of Sophocles' *Antigone* by Seamus Heaney

The Cure at Troy, a version of Sophocles' *Philoctetes* by Seamus Heaney

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Elizabeth Armstrong has moderated over twenty seminars, mostly in literature. Her two most recent ones were on poetry.

MUSEUMS: A WORLD OF WONDERS

Course #:	22S-MWW
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gordon Wyse Betty Romer
Date and Time:	Thurs, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

Participants will have the opportunity to share and to learn about different kinds of museums, not just art or history museums but also museums of aspects of culture and technology.

DESCRIPTION:

Besides the major museums we all recognize, smaller or more specialized museums can be interesting in a variety of ways. In this seminar, we will explore some of those. Each participant will choose a single museum or type of museum to present to the class. Some nearby examples include Historic Deerfield, Basketball Hall of Fame, New England Quilt Museum, Indian Motorcycle Museum, and Old Sturbridge Village. Beyond our area, there are thousands of interesting museums. For example, one might choose the Kansas Barbed Wire Museum or barbed-wire museums as a group. (Yes, there are several.) The idea is to pick a museum with a story you would like to tell.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will choose a museum (or a kind of museum). Participants will present their topic for roughly half an hour and lead subsequent discussion.

RESOURCES:

We will not have a required book. We expect to recommend (but not require) a book: perhaps Mackenzie Finklea, *Beyond the Halls: An Insider's Guide to Loving Museums*. An abundance of information is available online.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Betty and Gordon co-moderated Art and American History last year. Betty has been a docent at Wadsworth Atheneum, Mead Museum Amherst College, Mt. Holyoke Art Museum, and Springfield Museum of Fine Art. Gordon has moderated and attended many LIR seminars.

WRITING TO REMEMBER (RED)

Autobiographical Writing

Course #:	22S-WTRR
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Catharine Porter Trish Callard
Date and Time:	Thurs, 10:00 - 12:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	12
Auditors Accepted:	No
Max # of Auditors:	

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 LIR seminars (previously called "Autobiographical Writing"), Writing to Remember offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other a little 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 and/or possible additions as well as clarification. This seminar is not a course in 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.

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 make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

RESOURCES:

N/A

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

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, and teacher of writing with children and grateful for the opportunity now to write stories and get inspired by the stories of others!

WINTER ACTIVITIES

TIME TO TAKE A BREAK?

It's winter - cold and dark. Holidays are over. COVID lingers. So, grab a cup of tea or coffee - maybe a muffin, too, and check out who is gathered around the virtual table. Yes, we will be on Zoom, but we will see some new faces, hear some new ideas, find out what people are reading, share some rivalry over our favorite teams, get the low down on what is happening on the "other side of the river," or bemoan the headlines. You might invite a friend...even a friend half a world away! We might choose our focus in advance - current events this week, show and tell the most curious item in your house the next...or not. Let's play it by ear; but let's do it together and add a little warmth and companionship to the season.

Hosted by Francie Borden at 10:30 on Wednesdays
To begin the week of **January 7th**

ABORTION AND THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is on the cusp of deciding whether or not women will continue to have a recognized constitutional right to obtain an abortion, a right they have had for almost 50 years. Two Zoom sessions in January 2022 will carry forward the story of the woman's right to obtain an abortion from the beginning to the present controversy before the Court.

In the first session, **January 12, 2022 at 10AM**, Laura Frossard will focus on the case that first recognized the notion of a constitutional right to privacy. Jay Russell will then take us through the Roe decision and a subsequent case that significantly redefined the right to an abortion announced in Roe. Each presentation will be followed by an opportunity for discussion.

In the second session, **January 19, 2022 at 10AM**, Ben Jaffee will examine what the Supreme Court might have said, instead of what it in fact did say, in recognizing a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. After Ben, Elizabeth Davis will examine the Mississippi case pending in the Court, a decision which could bring an end to the 50 years of constitutional protection women have enjoyed to obtain an abortion. Each presentation will be followed by an opportunity for discussion.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

GOLD DIGGERS OF 1933:

Busby Berkeley and the rise of movie musicals

Moderator: Paul

Enrollment Limit: 25 - If there are more than 25 interested then another session will be scheduled for January 25th

Start Date: January 5

A presentation centered around the pre-code film *Gold Diggers of 1933*, which features production numbers designed and choreographed by Busby Berkeley.

A genius of early Hollywood, Berkeley did his major work at Warner Brothers between 1932 and 1935, inventing extravagant film sequences that used squadrons of scantily-clad chorus dancers, kaleidoscopic patterns of movement, spectacular camera placement, and risqué stories. He invented a style of dance-on-film that influences directors to this day. (Mel Brooks' seen-from-above swastika in the *Springtime for Hitler* number is an unabashed homage.)

Gold Diggers of 1933 surrounds a silly backstage love-and-romance story with numbers – supposedly from Broadway shows – that explode out of the “theatre” stage into the grandiose possibilities of a movie sound stage.

While it's not necessary to see the film in order to enjoy this presentation, you'll be missing out on a very good time, and you'll probably enjoy the presentation more. If you've seen other Busby Berkeley films, such as *42nd Street* or *Footlight Parade*, you'll know the territory.

The movie is available on Amazon Prime, on DVD through libraries (several copies are available via CW/MARS), and on loan from a few 5CLIR members.

Enrollment will be limited to 25. If there are more than 25, he will offer another section on **January 20th at 3:30pm**

GARDENERS' ROUNDTABLE

Moderators: Sherry (Cheryl) Wilson and Margaret Russell

Sherry is a member of The Garden Club of Amherst and wrote a garden column for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* for many years. Margaret Russell, as a volunteer, created and helps maintain gardens at the Garden House at Look Park.

Dates: Thursdays, January 13, 20, 27 and February 3

Time: 1:30-3 PM

Group Size: 10 plus moderators

Gardeners at every level enjoy talking and reading about plants, about what they recently purchased, what's doing well in their garden, and what problems they've encountered. As we begin to look forward to spring, we want to continue the informal conversation we started last year with the first roundtable, learning from each other, sharing our likes and dislikes, our successes and failures, and what inspires us.

Each week will have a focus: Fun and Frustration in the Garden; Gardening in Small Spaces (containers, raised beds, decks and balconies); Gardening as We Age (tools, downsizing from perennials to shrubs, cutting back on the size of the vegetable garden due to smaller families); and Garden Inspiration (whether a neighbor, professional, book or public garden).

Participants will each speak for a few minutes on the week's topic, followed by discussion prompted by participants' questions and suggestions.

When time permits, we can also talk about other subjects, such as mixing perennials, annuals and shrubs for maximum color impact, suggestions for ornamental grasses, adding more native plants for pollinators and pollinator habitat.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

ANECDOTAGE*

A Zoom-style story slam

General Guidelines:

- that the anecdote (or story) be based on a personal remembrance;
- that it should be presented orally (ie. not read);
- that it should be no more than 10 minutes (5 minutes suffice); and
- that it is non-competitive (we all win by sharing stories).

Subject Matter:

Subject matter will be generated in response to a limited number of prompts, which could be a first line, punch line, or wherever else the phrase seems to fit into a narrative.

Recommended prompts are:

- and then, you won't believe it ...
- I can't help but laugh (or tear up) when ...
- I'll never understand ...

Participants:

Zoom allows for an almost unlimited number of participants, including

- Story-tellers (who sign up with selected prompt); and
- Empathetic listeners.

Dates:

Anecdote is scheduled for two Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 pm, on

- January 12th
- January 19th.

The number of sessions may vary – more or less – depending on enrollment of story-tellers.

Co-Moderators:

- Bob Cohen (racprint@comcast.net)
- Nancy Denig (nancydenig10@gmail.com)

* Tom Mendenhall, the former President of Smith College, coined this clever term.



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