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Peer-Led Lifelong Learning



5CLIR REPORTER

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MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
- 1 Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
- 8 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
- 9 Deadline for fall 2018 seminar proposals

SAVE THE DATE!

PREVIEW OF SUMMER AND FALL 2018 SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
MAY 6, 2:00 – 3:45 P.M., Smith College Campus Center
(preceded by the Annual Meeting, from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the same location)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At some point during the next few weeks, moderators will be asked to identify those in their seminars who are interested in running for LIR's Council. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by others. The organization benefits from having a sizable pool of candidates; if you think you might have an interest in this role, don't hesitate to step forward! I have often heard it said, by the way, that "you have to run several times before you can expect to be elected to Council." I'm sure there are numerous examples supporting that assertion, but I'm also aware of examples to the contrary. Please don't let that notion deter you!



So--what does Council do, and why would one want to be a member of it? As I wrote in a previous letter, Council meets monthly to deal with LIR's "big picture"--policy matters, programming initiatives, and problems if and when they occur. Issues dealt with at recent Council meetings have included, for example, a significant updating and revision of our Operations Manual; reviewing an evaluation of the Emeritus status experiment conducted over the past two years, and deciding how to move forward with that status; working with Five College staff to formulate a mutually agreeable policy regarding the conduct of LIR events in private homes; assessment of the need for special equipment to deal with hearing difficulties experienced in some of our seminars; the degree of flexibility moderators have in the structure and operation of their seminars; discussing, fine-tuning, and approving a variety of special programs; and, of course, dealing with the organization's budget.

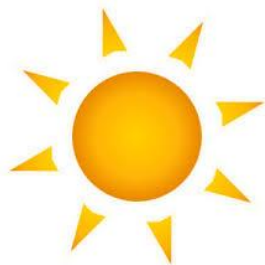
Some of these things may sound a little prosaic, but I can assure you that our discussions are lively and engaging! Beyond those discussions, of course, is the paramount fact that makes Council membership so rewarding--namely, that Council consists of a talented and dedicated group of people, united in their commitment to LIR, with whom it is a genuine pleasure to interact!

Talk with almost any group of LIR members, and you'll find several who have been members of Council at one time or another. Most speak very highly of the experience.

Perhaps it's your turn!

Mike Brooks

Call for Seminar Proposals for Fall and Summer 2018



The Curriculum Committee invites you to submit a seminar or workshop proposal for Fall or Summer 2018.

The proposal deadline for both is: **Friday, March 9.**

Fall proposals: The regular Fall semester period runs 10 weeks, from September 24 - November 28 (last day for Thursday seminars and any snow day is December 6). Shorter seminars or workshops during that period are welcome and always popular (e.g., a 7- or 8-week seminar). Enrollment in Fall seminars/workshops is subject to a lottery for oversubscribed seminars for those who submit their registrations by the lottery deadline.

Summer proposals: The Summer seminar/workshop period runs 7 weeks, from July 15 - August 30. Summer seminars or workshops are intended to be more flexible in format, and can be as short or long as you want. For example, you could offer a Summer seminar or workshop for 1-2 days, daily for an entire week, or weekly for a period up to 7 weeks. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To propose a seminar or workshop, please use the forms at www.5clir.org, Resources/Forms. There are separate forms for Fall and Summer proposals.

Your Curriculum Committee:

Miriam Whitney (co-chair) – miriama.whitney@gmail.com

Jim Harvey (co-chair) – jimharvey293@gmail.com

Susan Beer – sbeer4@comcast.net

Joanne Creighton – jcreight@mtholyoke.edu

Pam Daniels – harper227@comcast.net

Ruthie Kosiorek – mimikay1517@aol.com

Helene Lambert – hdl215@gmail.com

Henny Lewin - hennylewin@yahoo.com

Miriam Moss – mossm@arcadia.edu

Neil Novik – nnovik673@aol.com

Ellen Peck – epeck-killoh@comcast.net

Laura Price – lauranprice@yahoo.com

Jim Scott – nmscott@spanport.umass.edu

Katy van Geel – ktvangeel@gmail.com

A Member's Story

Child survivor of the Holocaust shares her family's story with Granby students

By EMILY CUTIS

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

GRANBY-As a young Jewish girl in Lithuania in the early 1940s, Henia Lewin was small enough to fit in a suitcase. That fact helped save her life when the Nazis arrived.

Lewin, now 78 and a resident of North Amherst, is a child survivor of the Holocaust. She shared her family's story to 120 seventh- and eighth-graders Tuesday afternoon at Granby Junior/Senior High School.

"I feel an obligation while I'm still around to tell their story because in a few years from now you're only going to get it from books and videos," she said.

Having someone who could share firsthand knowledge and personal experiences about historical events was a tremendous opportunity, eighth-grade history teacher Michael Stapert said in an email.

"For many young people today, events of the past are simply backlit LCD images on a screen, or impersonal details to commit to memory until the next history exam," Stapert wrote. "We believe having Ms. Lewin speak about her experiences will bring the issues associated with this historical period to life in a way that will challenge our students to confront the prejudices that can set one people against another. As a nation, a culture, and likely a species, our most powerful and necessary skill is empathy, and we are sure Ms. Lewin's story will strengthen this skill in our students."

Never Spoke About It

Lewin was only 1 1/2 years old when Nazi Germany invaded Lithuania.

"My memories are from a little bit later, from the age of 3,4,5," Lewin told the students. "But when I was a teenager, I started asking my parents questions. They were reluctant to discuss their experiences, having lost parents and brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews. They were really not anxious to discuss it, which is true for a lot of Holocaust survivors. They never spoke in public about their experiences, which is also true for a lot of Holocaust survivors.

Lewin's parents, Gita and Jonas Wisgardisky, lived in Kaunas, in south-central Lithuania. When Nazi soldiers arrived in 1941, approximately 40,000 Jews lived in the city. Her parents had married in December 1937 and Lewin was born in 1940. Considered a middle class family, the couple had a nanny to take care of Lewin

while they worked. But in June 1941, "the good times ended" and Jews were given until Aug. 15, 1941, to move into the Kovno Ghetto.

"It was probably big enough for about 6,000 people but now they crammed in those 40,000 Jews from Kaunas," Lewin told the students. When the war ended, only about 2,000 people had survived.

Three days after the ghetto was sealed on Aug. 15, soldiers came asking for 500 volunteers-men who spoke various languages-to help translate and write letters for German authorities, Lewin said. Lewin's uncle on her father's side was among the 526 who volunteered.

"Luckily, my father came too late to the group of 526 volunteers," Lewin said. "These 526 men were taken out of the ghetto and were all shot."

News of the men's deaths didn't make it back to the ghetto for a few days. Those who remained learned of the deaths when Lithuanian collaborators who had gone out with the Nazis came back wearing some of the clothing of the men they shot, Lewin said.

As the months went on, more and more people were killed, including Lewin's father's parents as well as his younger brother.

"At first it was comfortable for children to be playing in the streets of the ghetto, but after a while, rumor was they had a roundup of children -that the Germans decided to collect all the children," Lewin said. "In our ghetto, people were saying, 'We have to do something to smuggle our children out.'"

"My mother was one of the people who decided we are going to have smuggle children out of the ghetto, but it's easier said than done."

Escape from the ghetto

Lewin was eventually sedated and smuggled out of the ghetto in a suitcase. She lived with a Lithuanian family, Jonas and Joana Stankevicz, for about two years.

"I didn't find out until 50 years later, when I went back to Lithuania to look for them, that Mr. Stankevicz wasn't alive anymore ... Mrs. Stankevicz was, and she told me when Mr. Stankevicz was walking with the suitcase, he was stopped by a Lithuanian policeman. He wanted to see his papers ...if he had opened the suitcase, he would have shot me and Mr. Stankevicz and dumped our bodies right into the river," Lewin said.

But just that minute, a jeep full of Nazi soldiers arrived wanting directions to the ghetto. Not sharing a language, the Lithuanian soldier climbed into the jeep to show them the way and let Stankevicz-and the suitcase with Lewin inside -go.

"I was saved by a jeep full of Nazis. Crazy," Lewin said.

Once Lewin was out of the ghetto, one by one her parents were able to escape, as well as a younger cousin, Shoshana Berk. Lewin's father, Jonas Wisgardisky, climbed out a hospital window after being taken there after injuring his finger while working on a half-track. Her mother, Gita Wisgardisky, ran away from an outside work detail and briefly was hidden in a church by a priest, Bronius Paukstys. The couple had arranged a meeting spot in case of their escapes and found each other outside the ghetto, Lewin said.

After the Russian army came into Lithuania in the spring of 1944, the pair went to find Lewin and the Stankevicz family. Lewin said she and the Stankevices fled to northern Lithuania, near the Latvian border, in an attempt to escape arrest by the Russians for being capitalists and doing business with the Germans. "It took my mother and father a long time to find them," Lewin said. "Eventually the Soviets did arrest Mr. Stankevicz, and my mother and father went before the judge to plead for this wonderful, kind man. The judge had given him 20 years of hard labor in Siberia."

Stankevicz's sentence was reduced to 10 years hard labor but Lewin said he was allowed to go back home after four years.

After the war, Lewin and her parents, along with her younger cousin, Shoshana, spent time in a displaced persons camp in Germany in 1946. Shoshana was being raised as Lewin's younger sister because they believed both her parents were dead, but Shoshana's mother survived the war and found her at the camp. Lewin and her family were in the camp until 1949 when they emigrated to Israel.

After sharing her history, Lewin showed the students pictures she was able to find: from family and the Stankevices; photos of her or her family that appeared in newspapers, or in the Holocaust Museum in Washington; and pictures from when Lewin returned to Lithuania with her family in 1995.

"The people I am most angry with are the bystanders. The people who didn't get involved to stop the evil," Lewin said. "Don't be a bystander. Be a person that does good."

That message struck a chord with eighth-grader Isaiah Mejias, who said he felt empowered by Lewin's words to take action when someone is being bullied.

For eighth-grader Meghan Eisnor, who said she was adopted, Lewin's speech was a glimpse into her own history.

"I thought it was very interesting," Eisnor said.

Emily Cutts can be reached at ecutts@gazettenet.com.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

All members are cordially invited to the



5CLIR SPRING SOCIAL

at Hadley Farms Meeting House
on Wednesday, April 18th
from 4-6 pm.

This is our special time to meet new friends
and reconnect with old ones
over hors d'oeuvres and assorted beverages.
A cash bar serving wine and beer will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Book Interest Group

The Book Interest Group, a long-time favorite, is open to all LIR members. Monthly meetings are at 2:00-4:00 PM.

This spring's schedule is:

DATE	BOOK TITLE	FACILTATOR	HOST	REFRESHMENTS
Feb 16	<i>Strangers in Their Own Land</i> by Arlie Hochschild (242 pp)	Laura	Laura Price	Lola
March 16	<i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi (320 pp)	Ellen	Ellen Peck	Mollie
April 20	<i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir</i> by J.D. Vance (257 pp)	Susan	Susan Beer	Betsy
May 11	<i>Oh What a Paradise It Seems</i> by John Cheever (100 pp)	Dotty	Bobbie Reitt	Bobbie

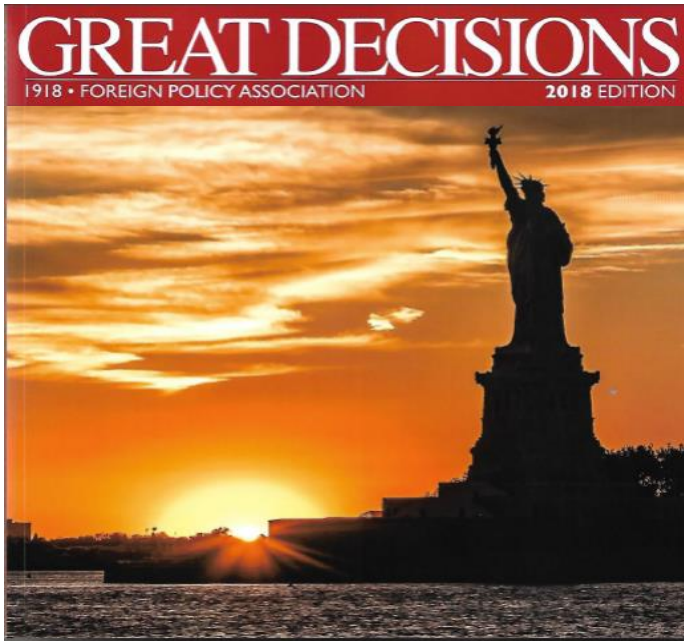
For more information, contact Naomi Yanis at:
Naomi937@comcast.net or 413-586-3399

Encore Presentations, Spring 2018

at Applewood in Amherst on Fridays, 10:00- noon. (No April meetings).
Open to LIR members and Applewood residents.

Date	Presentation title	Presenter	Seminar	Moderator
2/23	Hamilton & Jefferson	Gordon Wyse	Hamilton – the musical & history	Linda Honan
2/23	Henry Ford	Robert Cohen	The US 1912-1920	Rich Szlosek
3/2	Internet of Things	Teresa Barton	New Technologies	Janet Price
3/2	Bitcoin	Emily Hurn	New Technologies	Janet Price
3/9	Anglicanism	David Neelon	Jane Austen	Laura Price
3/9	Ship Notes	Eve Endicott	Writing to Remember - Purple	Ina Luadtke
3/16	Improving the Landscape: Jane Austen Style	Nancy Denig	Jane Austen	Laura Price
3/16	The Queen's Gown	Patricia Warner	The Sultan & the Queen	Joan Wofford
3/23	Colonel House	Chuck Aulino	The US 1912-1920	Rich Szlosek
3/23	American Protective League	Rich Szlosek	The US 1912-1920	Rich Szlosek
3/30	Lebanon	Eleanor Johnson	Writing to Remember - Purple	Ina Luadtke
3/30	Dancing in Squares	Gary Roodman	The Arithmetic of Symmetry	John Armstrong
5/9	Civil Rights in the '60s	Stephanie Levin	Writing to Remember - Purple	Ina Luadtke
5/9	Digital Privacy	Nancy Mihevc	The US Supreme Court	Jay Russell
5/16	Hitler Youth	Rachel Borson	Hitler & the Nazis	Glenn Swanson
5/16	Liberia	Elizabeth Schaffer	Writing to Remember - Blue	Henia Lewin

GREAT DECISIONS to begin in April



Great Decisions events will take place
on Friday mornings
between 9:30 AM and Noon
at the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

This year's topics (chosen from a member survey) are:

APRIL 6: THE WANING OF PAX AMERICANA, WITH THOMAS JOHNSON

APRIL 13: MEDIA AND FOREIGN POLICY, WITH PAUL MUSGRAVE

APRIL 20: U.S. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND THE MILITARY, WITH LAURA REED

APRIL 27: GLOBAL HEALTH: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES, WITH TIM FORD

For more details, please visit the Great Decisions page of our website at
5clir.org/great-decisions.

Brochures will be mailed in March, and ticket sales, online and by mail, will begin then.

pot luck

Going with the Grain: QUINOA

By NINA M. SCOTT AND KATY VAN GEEL

Easthampton artist Suzette Jones is a relative newcomer to Five College Learning in Retirement and certainly to this kind of class, about cooking with ancient grains, but she took to it like a duck to water.

She had opted for quinoa, a plant related to amaranth. Technically a pseudo-cereal, it is gluten-free and high in protein. Suzette had spent some time as a student

(Andean quinoa is the most common) but she does not recall where she learned about it there. "I've eaten thousands of different grains," she said, "but quinoa is banned from the diet of many people from the variety of soils



and is easily available in local stores, comes in a variety of colors, and cooks quickly. Suzette made us a soup, a curried quinoa and carrot salad (our # 1), a kind of tabbouleh with quinoa and lentils, a quinoa smoothie with fruit and yogurt, and a fragrant pumpkin bread with candied ginger. "I did spend all of yesterday in the kitchen," she said a bit wearily. She also praised her husband, Tom, for being her willing and cooperative guinea pig in trying all these new dishes.

Curried Quinoa and Carrot Salad

Serves 4
Ingredients:
2 limes
1 cup dry quinoa
3 tbsp lime juice



Photos by Katy van Geel

1 1/4 cups water
1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
1 tsp curry powder
1/8 tsp ground ginger
1/8 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
10 oz shredded carrots
1 cup no-salt-added canned chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1 1/2 cups thinly sliced scallions
1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
1/4 cup dried currants or golden raisins
Dressing:
3 tbsp lime juice
lime zest
2 tbsp olive oil
1/4 tsp salt

1/4 tsp pepper

Directions:

1. Zest one lime to produce 1 1/2 teaspoons zest, then juice both limes.
2. In a saucepan, combine 3 tablespoons lime juice, quinoa, water, olive oil, curry seasoning, and salt. Bring to a boil; reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until quinoa turns transparent and liquid is absorbed. Cool and place in a large bowl.
3. Add carrots, chickpeas, scallions, almonds, and currants. Toss.
4. In a small bowl, combine 3 tbsp lime juice, zest, olive oil, salt and pepper, whisk until well blended. Pour over quinoa mixture and toss. Divide into 4 salad bowls. Let stand for a while before serving to blend the flavors.

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD 2017-2018

See the Cinemark schedule below, and note the addition of an afternoon encore series (a change that seniors may be happy to see).

Another change. The Friday afternoon Opera Prep talks have been moved from Northampton Lathrop **to the Inn at Easthampton Lathrop. 2:00 to 3:00 PM.**

If you have questions, please contact:

Peg Bedell at (413-203-5562) or at peggotty25@gmail.com

Prep.	Live.	Encore.	Encore.		Start Time.	Run Time
03/09.	03/10.	03/14.	03/14.	Rossini. SEMIRAMIDE.	12:55.	3:50
03/30.	03/31.	04/04.	04/04.	Mozart. COSI FAN TUTTE	12:55.	4:00
04/13.	04/14.	04/18.	04/18.	Verdi. LUISA MILLER.	12:30.	4:00
04/27.	04/28.	05/02.	05/02.	Massenet. CENDRILLON.	12:55.	3:15

5CLIR Technology Committee Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for help on the Technology Committee in 5CLIR. The Technology Committee provides 5CLIR members with information on and instruction in relevant digital and audio-visual technology related issues. You may feel you don't have sufficient experience to help other members, but all kinds of assistance are needed and in many cases, you probably know more than you think about current technology. While some members may have significant technical expertise, others are needed so that we can identify issues that nontechnology minded 5CLIR members may be facing. Please respond to the office, if you are able to help.

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 such assistance, please choose the type of device or software concerning you and then email the appropriate Tech Committee member for assistance. Note that while we will attempt to satisfactorily solve your problem, we cannot guarantee a solution.

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

5CLIR CALENDAR March - June 2018

- March**
- 1 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 1 Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 8 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 9 Deadline for fall 2018 seminar proposals
 - 12 – 15 Optional extra Curriculum Committee meeting
- April**
- 5 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 5 Curriculum Committee, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 12 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 18 Spring Social, Hadley Farms Meeting House, 4-6 pm
- May**
- 3 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 3 Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 3 Last (snow) day of spring semester seminars
 - 6 Annual Meeting, 1:30-2:00/Fall Preview 2:00-3:45,
Smith College Campus Center
 - 10 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 18 Close of registration for inclusion in lottery for fall seminars
- June**
- 1 Lottery for oversubscribed fall 2018 seminars
 - 7 Executive Committee meeting, 1:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 7 Curriculum Committee meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.
 - 14 Council meeting, 2:15-4:15, Five Colleges, Inc.

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Smith College
18 Henshaw Avenue, C2
Northampton, MA 01063
Phone: (413) 585-3756
Email: 5clir@smith.edu
Website: www.5clir.org

Editor: *Tisha Ferguson*