5CLIR REPORTER

June 2008 Newsleaflet VOL. XXI NO. 5

CALENDAR...

June 2008

Sunday, June 1st, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Spring Preview
Smith College Campus Center

Sunday, June 1st, 3:30–4:00 p.m.
5CLIR Annual Meeting
Bylaw Election
Nominations for Council officers and Council members
Smith College Campus Center

Tuesday, June 3rd
Ballots mailed to members for Council election

Thursday, June 5, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
Viewpoints Discussion Group
Small conference room,
Highland Valley Elder Services,
320 Riverside Drive, Florence
(contact Hy Edelstein @ 584-3060)

Thursday, June 5, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
Curriculum Committee meeting
Five Colleges HQ, Amherst

Fridays, June 6th, 13th, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
French conversation with Judith Pool
Room 114, UMass Continuing Education Bldg
Venture Way, off N. Maple St, Hadley
(contact Judith @ 586-2190)

Thursday, June 12, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
Council meeting
Five Colleges HQ, Amherst

...save the dates...

Monday, June 16th, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for Council election ballots to reach the office

Wednesday, June 18th,
Special Programs trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Friday, June 20th
Results of Council election announced

Friday, June 20th, 9:00 a.m.
Close of registration for lotteried fall seminars

Tuesday, June 24th
Lottery for oversubscribed seminars

Tues, June 24th – Wed, June 25th
Lotteried seminar confirmations mailed out

June 25th – September 22nd
Seminar confirmations mailed out as they are received

Letter from Mary Franks, our President

All of a sudden my tenure as president is drawing to a close. From my viewpoint it has been a wonderful year. There are so many memories of fine seminars, special programs and events to savor. In the fall the Long-Range Planning Committee solicited your opinions about the direction you'd like to see LIR go in the future. At the January Holiday Luncheon we enjoyed Janet and Johann Bronger's pictures of Afghanistan, narrated by their friend Marybeth Bridegam. The ad hoc Bylaw Revision Committee prepared a revised bylaw in time for the February Council meeting. This was followed by a joint Membership/Council meeting plus a meeting with past presidents at which time everyone had an opportunity to make suggestions for changes. The result is a simplified version of the original LIR bylaws which has eliminated inconsistencies, clarified Council's responsibilities, made it easier to make amendments by lowering the quorum needed for approval and has broadened the opportunities for members to participate in LIR's governance. The next important step is to get your approval of the revised bylaw at the Annual Meeting on June 1.

In March the Curriculum Committee offered a much appreciated "How to Plan a Seminar" training session for moderators and those contemplating moderating. Special Programs Committee arranged a new Friday morning lecture series in February and March. These featured Leo Sartori who spoke about Relativity and Jim Harvey whose topic was Pakistan. This series was so popular that several more will be presented in the fall. This series was followed by five outstanding Great Decisions lectures.

Wow, what a year and this is only part of our offerings. You all know that YOU, our LIR members, are the reason we can offer so many stimulating educational programs. YOU have so many exciting ideas and are willing to work hard to see that they happen. Thank all of you for making LIR such a unique, rewarding, stimulating and exciting experience.

Now on to 2008–09. In addition to seminars and special programs, look for details about our gala to celebrate LIR's 20th year on October 4, and another Aging Conference on November 15. Then on April 25 we will continue to celebrate our 20th Anniversary with small pot luck brunches at members' houses. And thanks to all of you there will be much more…….

Most important of all, our heartfelt thanks to our office manager, Callie, who so pleasantly, calmly and efficiently provides the strong support which allows all these events to happen.

Best wishes to our new president Leo Sartori!

Mary Franks, President of 5CLIR

(Photo courtesy of Nina Scott, who has consistently not been recognized as the source of this picture!)

A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the July newsleaflet is Wednesday, 25th June, 9:00 a.m. Please email me your contributions, attaching the documents you are submitting. It would be helpful if you would use Arial font, and please don't format your documents. Descriptions of LIR seminars and trips, special programs attended, and any unusual seminar presentations, etc., would be ideal topics. Pictures of LIR seminars, groups, and events are always welcomed! Callie

Community Projects – An Opportunity for Interaction

The Smith College School for Social Work requires its first-year masters' students to complete community practice projects. The students spend four hours per week over several months working on projects designed to contribute to the community and address the needs of various populations. Students design their own projects or may select from a list proposed by individuals, human service agencies, or other organizations.

LIR can benefit from developing relationships with local colleges and student volunteers. Here are three ideas proposed for the coming year. Although we do not know if any of these will be selected by students, now is the time to let us know if you might be interested in working on one of these projects with a student and a small LIR committee, or if you have another idea to propose. If this effort is successful, perhaps LIR can explore connections to other students from Smith or neighboring colleges who wish to engage in volunteer work.

Proposed Projects:

1) Increasing ethic/racial diversity in LIR.

Researching the potential population of seniors of color in the valley, exploring learning interests and needs, educating re: LIR resources.

2) Producing a video documentary of LIR activities

Developing a film to be used in education and recruitment.

3) Surveying Valley elders' intellectual interests and opportunities

Researching preferred learning styles and needs of members and prospective members.

Contact Joan Laird if you are interested in participating in a project.
(email: joan.laird@charter.net; after the summer you can reach her on 549-7860)

Jane Hovde

I first met Jane Hovde in Wil Hastings's seminar on Sufi poetry two years ago, and she impressed me right away with her sensitive literary insights, her beautiful reading voice, and a superb nut bread she brought when it was her turn to present. As she happened to be in Maine last summer, Jane also made it a point to visit Jim and me in our cottage in Friendship. Sharing lobster rolls on our front deck with her was a real pleasure, and left me with a desire to get to know her better.

Jane Hovde was raised in Pennsylvania, mostly near Philadelphia, but the family moved often, as her father was in management for U.S. Gypsum. In 1947 they settled in New England, in Framingham Center, having purchased an historically unique house: the home built in 1693 by two of the accused in the Salem witch trials, Sarah Cloyce and her husband Peter. Sarah was the sister of Rebecca Nurse, the old woman who was hanged by the court (as portrayed in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*). Sarah's own story was told in a 1985 film called *Three Sovereigns for Sarah*, as was that of Mary Easty, who was also executed. Jane surmised that the judges were getting uneasy at the turn the trials were taking, and after Sarah's one-year imprisonment, she and Peter were given a land grant in Framingham Center by one of the judges. The house they built was Jane's home, and still stands, but barely. She has attempted a number of times to have it saved, but the uninhabited building is so far gone now that there is little hope.

Bryn Mawr College and a History major were next (Jane graduated in 1953), after which she taught at Dana Hall School in Wellesley for two years. Jane then enrolled in a doctoral program at Harvard, where she got an M.A. in History, after which she worked for Beacon Press for two years. A move to NYC followed, where she met her husband, Carl Hovde, who was hired to teach American literature at Columbia University. They married in 1960. Carl replaced Charles van Doren, the infamous star of the quiz show *Twenty-One* (a.k.a. The *$64,000 Question*) who had had to resign from Columbia when his complicity in the cheating on the show was revealed. In 1964 Carl taught in Brazil just as the country was undergoing a military coup; in spite of that, Jane loved it there and became a close friend of the celebrated writer Nélida Piñón.

photo courtesy Nina Scott

Jane and Carl lived even more tumultuous years at Columbia when Carl was appointed Dean of Columbia College in 1968, at the height of the student protests, a position for which he was well suited. As an article from *Time* remarked, "Hovde is an admirer of student activists and welcomes the fact that the spring rebellion shook the place up." In reminiscing upon this time, Jane says,

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Jane Hovde, continued

"Carl's was the only cool head in the place."

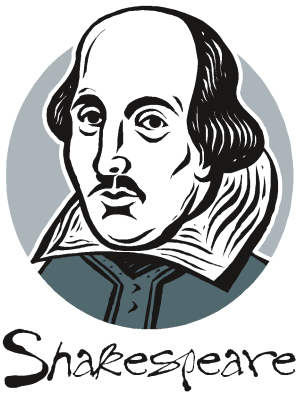
Jane and Carl had two daughters and a son, and Jane took advantage of her time at Columbia to start her Ph.D. in History, but stopped short of completing the dissertation because she could not see what she could ultimately do with this degree, her husband being as tied to Columbia as he was. "So I went to law school," she said, a tough decision with three small children and no help, but she studied at night, completed her degree, and was hired by a law firm. "I hated it," Jane remarked. Subsequently she was hired by the Corporation Counsel, the legal department of the City of New York. Her boss was Mayor Ed Koch's former law partner.

"It was a great place to get to know how the city operated. I was in litigation all the time, and had no vacations at all. After three years I quit." One factor which affected her decision was that the Hovdes had bought a summer place in Plainfield, MA, but her work constantly kept her from joining the family there. So Jane went back to teaching at a number of private day schools, first in NYC and then in Western Mass. She moved to this area in 1988, as she felt that she wanted to live in a place to which she could retire. Carl initially felt the same way and came with her, but his ties to Columbia were so strong that he kept spending more and more time there, and he and Jane ultimately separated.

Her next job was as an adjunct professor teaching introductory law at the UMass School of Management until her formal retirement in 1997. She then passed the Massachusetts bar exam and spent three years as a volunteer in family law in Holyoke (1998–2000); during that time she became initially involved with 5CLIR. When her daughter, who had two small children with asthma, needed her help, Jane moved to Brooklyn, returning here again in 2005 to take up residence in Northampton and resume her membership in 5CLIR. She is also an active volunteer at the Emily Dickinson Museum. Last fall she moderated a seminar entitled "A Perspective on Utopian Communities" (with an emphasis on Massachusetts), and this fall, with Kathy Hazen, heads up "Shakespeare Readings," a chance for members to simply read Shakespeare aloud together and glory in the beauty of his words. No pressure, no secondary literature, no quizzes.

It will give Jane another chance to exercise that extraordinary reading voice.

--Nina M. Scott



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5 CLIR REPORTER

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