

*LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT*  
*July, 2013*

***HIDDEN TREASURES AND THE AMBER ROOM:  
IMPRESSIONIST ART HELD HOSTAGE***  
*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Berkshire Community College, Massachusetts*

This course looks at Impressionist art as a route into cultural history, beginning with a discussion of the Impressionists in Paris during and after the Franco-Prussian War. It then turns to the failure and later success of the movement in France, foreign avant-garde collectors and the dislocation of that art during World War I and II. Finally, there will be an appraisal of the “good and bad guys” and the ongoing controversy about restitution and the right of return. Topics of this six-week course include:

**Introduction to the Impressionists** – Painting in Paris: The *Artistes Pompiers* and the *Intransigents* (aka the Impressionists); “Understanding the Elderly” – how past experiences shape understanding; the effects of war, revolution and politics on art ownership.

**The Impressionists in Paris** – The dictatorship of the Academy; the bourgeois rage for academic art in Haussmann’s Paris; the Franco-Prussian War and the Siege of Paris ignored; Impressionism goes global with the evolution of the salons and the rise of art dealers.

**Impressionist Art Collectors and the Effects of War** – The expropriation of art during World War I and the Russian Revolution; the rape of Jewish and European treasures during World War II.

**The Rape of Europa** – The showing of this film.

**Destruction and Revenge in Russia** – A second siege in Leningrad; German vandalizing of the Peterhof, Pavlova and Catherine palaces; theft of the Amber Panels, Russia’s revenge and restitution held hostage.

**The Continuing Saga of Restitution in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries** – The Monuments Men; retrieving art after the war; successful restitution and ongoing claims.

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***SUMMER COURSES***  
*Academy of Lifelong Learning, Colby-Sawyer College, New Hampshire*

Courses begin the week of July 15<sup>th</sup>. The five topics for the summer curriculum are:

- **Regional Climate Change and Global Warming with *Bob Crane*** - Our local climate observations are a microcosm of the global climate variations we have witnessed from the last Ice Age up to today. This 4-session course will close with the question of climate warming and explore its local and global consequences.

- **Colorful Journey: Capturing the Moment with Sue Anne Bottomley** - Why not try “capturing the moment” by drawing your surroundings? You can do this whether you are at home with family, away in a hotel room, in a crowded marketplace, or on your own town green. The class will emphasize on- location drawing on paper. Participants will look at examples of the genre, try out different materials, and create a personal sketchbook of the places and people visited in each of the four class sessions.
- **The Films of Buster Keaton with Chuck Kennedy** - Buster Keaton was one of the giants of the silent film era in America. Trained on the vaudeville stage to make dead-pan pratfalls, he learned that “an audience will laugh at things happening to you, and they certainly wouldn’t laugh if it happened to them.” Keaton’s developing skills as a comedian and as a filmmaker will be the focus of film reviews and discussion of four of his classic silent films that continue to enthrall audiences today.
- **From  $E=mc^2$  to the Bikini Atoll: A History of the Manhattan Project with Gene Lariviere** - The people and problems involved in the development of the atom bomb are the subject of this non-technical exploration. Who were the decision makers—and what influenced their choices?
- **Encore: A Reprise of Popular Lectures with moderators Joanna Henderson and Mike Moss** - Here’s your chance to catch up on past AIL lectures you may have missed. Four study leaders are offering talks from previous courses in this summer potpourri: “The Virgin Queen: The Story of Elizabeth I” with Julie Machen, “Coming to America: Retracing the History of European Immigration” with Morris Edwards, “William Jennings Bryan: The Tireless Crusader” with Joanna Henderson and “Posters for Victory” with Michael Moss.

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***SPIRITUAL MATURITY: A PROGRESSIVE AND RATIONALIST VIEW OF  
THE ROAD TO UNITY  
Lifetime Learning Institute, NOVA Annandale, Virginia***

A series of discussions on a progressive view of spiritual development as described by five theorists, all of whose work contributes to the overall message that: (1) a unitive world view (as opposed to divisiveness) is the highest level value in spiritual maturity; (2) greater truth is found in a metaphorical (as opposed to literal) understanding of religious content; and (3) spiritual development theory and globalization is leading us to the recognition of all religions as localized expressions of a common human search for connection with something greater than ourselves. The sessions will be balanced between didactic lessons and group discussion, depending on what seems to be the preference of the class. If a greater perspective can be gleaned through an understanding of the spiritual stages, that could bring an end to religious intolerance and encourage growth toward a metaphorical understanding of spiritual concepts. It would suggest a more challenging form of spirituality based on values – especially unity, the most spiritually mature value of all. The class will cover:

- Walter Clark and Gordon Allport – Attributes of a Mature Faith
- Paul Ricoeur – First Naivete, Critical Distance, Second Naivete

- James Fowler – Six Faith-Development Stages
- K. Helmut Reich – Five Stages of Reasoning (and a general discussion about spirituality)

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***SUMMER TERM 2013***  
***Learning Institute at New England College, New Hampshire***

Over the summer, LINEC will be offering the following courses:

**Women Artists in New Hampshire: Then and Now**

THEN - A visit to the NH Historical Society's 4<sup>th</sup> floor exhibit "Home, School and Studio: Women Artists in NH" showcases the States women painters throughout history. A visit to a 1905 mock-up general store will give participants an idea of the physical demands of women's work during that time. They will view the exhibit and discuss how women became artists, considering the limits placed on them by society.

NOW – Participants will visit McGowan Fine Art to learn how the place for women artists, especially in the field of painting, has evolved. The gallery owner will show and discuss examples of the women's work currently represented by the gallery.

**Law & Disorder: 1961 Freedom Rides**

The attempt to integrate interstate bus travel in the American south led to brutal beatings, mass arrests, riots and confrontations between federal and state authorities. Using mixed media, participants will follow the story of the '61 Freedom Rides, leading to enactment of federal Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts.

**Current Issues:**

News is a twenty-four hour cycle. Participants will bring their own topics and issues of concern for discussion.

**Now or Never Reading Group:**

PROUST – An opportunity for participants to join a group seeking to discover why this major 20<sup>th</sup> century author is so revered – and feared. Proust looked into his past and found it deep inside himself, as indeed, it is in each one of us.

**More Food Issues:**

Participants will bring food labels and packaging. They will evaluate them for accuracy and adequacy, as well as the good, the bad, the ugly and the new interactive and edible packaging created by the wizardry of food technology. They will also view documentaries followed by discussions.

**Economic Changes in the Third World:**

A review of the economic changes over the last sixty years in Africa and Latin America, and the changes in the Arab world in the first two decades following the Second World War.

**The Armchair Traveler:**

Participants will enjoy armchair travel to such countries as Switzerland, Galapagos Islands and Tanzania.

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***SUMMER INTERSESSION***

***Learning in Retirement at Iona College (LIRIC), New York***

During the summer intersession held this month, members of the LIRIC program at Iona College in New York, who are not off vacationing, will be able to choose from the following:

**Writing Workshop** – An opportunity to turn memories into memoirs and experiment with a variety of other writing genres in a nurturing atmosphere.

**Bridge: The Un-Class** – For members of Bridge Players Anonymous who can't do without their fix for an enjoyable hour and ten minutes of un-structured, un-instructed bridge-playing.

**Looking Back** – For members enlightenment, an offering of lectures on the following historical subjects: History of Eastchester's One-Room Schoolhouse – An Untold Story of Jewish History – Norman Rockwell's Years in New Rochelle – The Organization of Chinese-Americans: The Beginning to the Present

**Laughing Out Loud** – The greatest modern American comics often assign their most hilarious and satiric material to comedy albums. Members will listen to the belly-laugh-inducing routines of Tom Lehrer, Bob Newhart, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, and Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks, to consider the comedians themselves and analyze their humor.

**All In the Family** – How members can make sure their children and grandchildren will know their family using the following topics: Getting Started on Genealogy – Creating a Family Album – Memory Mosaics: A Demonstration – The Family Saga

**The Art Workshop** – For those who wish to continue their instruction or those who wish to learn to draw.

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