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FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

LIRIC’s Archives go Digital!

As those of you who read LIRIC’s Annual Report will know, last year we lost the use of the filing cabinets we had on Iona’s campus. Our archives, which we had hoped to move to Iona, continue in Marion Shiffer’s basement. We did what we always do in adversity, we turned to the members of LIRIC’s Faculty Advisory Committee for help. Tresmaine Grimes, Iona’s Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and a long-time member of our Advisory Committee, came up with a partial solution. Dr. Grimes has offered to ask an Iona student to digitize our archives for us. The details remain to be worked out, but we are very excited by the possibilities this will open up for us. Of course, all things worth doing are worth doing well. We need a curator to cull files before they are scanned, and to make sure that the scanned documents are named and organized logically. If you’d like to help with this project, please let Suzanne know.

Taking Stock of Our New Venue

Holly Black, author of the children’s fantasy series The Spiderwick Chronicles said “changing is what people do when they have no options left” and that more or less describes why LIRIC decided to change venues last year. The Elks were selling their building, and after a careful and exhaustive review of alternative venues, we moved to the best site available to us, Juliano’s. Now that we’ve completed one full session in our new home, let’s pause and compare our new digs with our old.

One thing is certain, Juliano’s is a whole lot warmer and a whole lot cleaner and better tended than the Elks! The staff, although busy running their business, are very friendly and responsive. We asked for hooks in the ladies room and a few small repairs, and we got them. Most importantly, the staff at Juliano’s is actually there; at the Elks, we were almost always on our own. The rooms at Juliano’s are brighter and smaller with better acoustics, which makes it easier for us to see and hear each other. It was impossible to cover the high side window at the Elks, but the rooms at Juliano’s are easy to darken, making it easier to see projected images. The parking lot is not as large as we’d like, but it’s flat and spacious enough for us on almost all occasions. We were surprised last fall when we broke all previous attendance records. We had more than 95 people at the 12:30 class every Tuesday in

continued on page 2...
From the Director's Desk continued from page 1..

October. We have never had attendance that high before, and had not expected it. In those numbers, we do not quite fit into the parking lot at Juliano's. Of course we would not have fit into the parking lot at the Elks either. The difference is that the Elks Lodge was in a suburban neighborhood and so we could overflow onto a quiet suburban street when necessary. Overflowing Juliano’s parking lot is more difficult. If we are lucky enough to offer such a popular course again, here are a few suggestions for coping with the parking problem: catch a ride with a friend, use the $2 parking lot a block and a half North of Juliano’s, (where Main and Huguenot diverge), block another LIRIC member in (but be sure to leave your cell phone number clearly visible on your dashboard, and move your car as soon as the lecture ends). I’m not sure whether to hope we never have this problem again or not – on the one hand, it’s very irritating to arrive and find the parking lot full, on the other hand, if you can’t find a place to park, it must be because LIRIC is offering something really great. I will be careful what I wish for!

The one and only thing I miss about the Elks was the coffee Manny made for us each day. Manny came in early to make us urns of coffee, hot water and decaf, and to set out cups and sugar and milk. He stayed all day to keep our water jugs filled, mop the floor if we spilled, and clean the whole affair up when we were finished. He did all this for $25 a day. Not surprisingly, we can’t match that deal in our new location. Hopefully, one of you will volunteer to be our new Hospitality Chair and work with me and a committee to find a way to do all this for ourselves. Until then, the deli across the street has decent coffee for $1. Once we are all properly caffeinated again, I’m sure we’ll agree that our move has been a change for the better!

LIRIC welcomes Cheryl & Jerry Millman as our New Hospitality Co-Chairs

opportunities to socialize with interesting people are chief among the benefits of belonging to LIRIC, and those opportunities depend in large part on the Hospitality Committee. With great pleasure, and not a little relief, LIRIC welcomes new Hospitality co-Chairs Cheryl & Jerry Millman. As Hospitality Chairs, the Millmans will organize the refreshments for LIRIC’s Open House in September, for the New Member Breakfast in October, and for the luncheons at our two General Membership meetings in December and May. One of them will serve on LIRIC’s Executive Board.

The job of the Hospitality Committee has always been important, but since our move to Juliano’s it has become larger and more difficult. This is where you come in. The Millmans need a Committee of volunteers to help.

LIRIC needs volunteers for the Hospitality Committee.

Volunteers are needed each day to fill water jugs and set up cups and cookies in the morning, and other people to clear those things away after lunch each day. If we are to have coffee and tea, we need people to fill the urns in the morning, and (perhaps different people) to empty them after lunch. Do you plan to attend Thursday mornings in March? Perhaps you can start the coffee going on those days. Do you plan to attend on Tuesday afternoons in April? Consider volunteering to empty the urns after lunch on those days. If enough people volunteer, we should be able to piece together a duty roster that will allow us to have ice water and hot drinks on as many days as possible. Are you willing but not yet sure? Let us know anyway. Cheryl and Jerry will work with your schedule, but they cannot do it without you.

Please contact the Millmans to volunteer by phone 413-0522 or email nycha50@gmail.com (Cheryl), or millman01@gmail.com (Jerry).

Suzanne Page

YOUR BUDDY IS SICK

If one of your LIRIC friends is ill or has suffered the loss of a dear one, please call Barbara Mohalley at (914) 576-2311 with the information. We want to send a card wishing our fellow member well or extending our sympathy. Remember: LIRIC members are caring and supportive of one another, but we have to be aware of the info.
ROAD SCHOLAR TRIP TO CRISFIELD, MARYLAND

Road Scholar, besides cosponsoring Lifelong Learning Institutes like LIRIC, also runs an extensive schedule of guided tours both domestic and international. Don and I have taken 10 trips, our most recent being to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, with our longtime friends Pauline and Frank.

A little geography first. Chesapeake Bay is a 270 mile long body of water that slices Maryland and Virginia south to North. I-95 and Amtrak, spines of the Northeast Corridor, run near the western side of the bay, or mainland, through Baltimore and Washington, DC. The eastern side of the bay is called the Delmarva Peninsula, made up of all of Delaware and the eastern parts of Maryland and Virginia. Crisfield is way down on the Shore, almost to VA border. It was once the foremost producer of crabs and oysters in the country, but modern transportation and refrigeration have changed all that. Shellfish from as far away as China can be caught and shipped fresh to US restaurants immediately. Today it appears to be a town that tourism and prosperity passed by.

Now about the the tour. trips are rated for level of activity and handicapped accessibility, among other things. Crisfield is a moderately active trip but the accommodations are not accessible. The trip was 6 days and five nights, quite typical of US Road Scholar tours.

This trip is popular because you can learn about the history of the shellfishing industry, witness some historical anomalies and taste the freshest crabs and oysters to be had anywhere.

The speakers and tour leaders are always well informed and entertaining. The other scholars are eager to learn and easygoing. We were asked not to discuss religion, politics, nor grandchildren, but with 14 Methodist churches in Crisfield, we talked about them; when it came out that we had newly arrived twins in our family, everyone with twins chatted with us too.

There are no fancy restaurants, no casinos, no visits to highend shopping centers. There is no need to bring dresses nor ties. We are always encouraged to get to know the other people and by the end of a week, we usually know the name and home state of just about everyone. The price is inclusive of rooms and all meals, perhaps but one to give folks a chance to go off on their own. If you have friends in another state it is a great way to connect with them for a week, which is what we do. Women who travel alone have the option of having Road Scholar select a roommate or they can have a single room; single travelers are treated well. The prices are competitive and you get to see interesting, offbeat “stuff”.

Accommodations for Road Scholar trips can vary. We have stayed at luxury hotels (Sea Islands, GA), historic downtown hotels (Charleston. SC and San Antonio, TX), rustic cabins (Big Sur. CA), and tiny college dormrooms (Bermuda).

Crisfield has only one motel as far as we could see, clean, family operated, no frills.

We were in the annex. The building seemed to have a large empty store on the first floor being used for some kind of storage (more later), an outdoor wooden staircase up which we had to bring our luggage, and plain rooms with whirlpool baths but no internet, no phones, no coffee makers.

Most meals were served in local restaurants, requiring a 2-4 block walk. The first dinner, on Sunday evening, was just adequate but after that we ate extremely well.

After learning how Captain John Smith (of Pocahontas fame) came up the Chesapeake in 1680 and acquired property, including two islands, for Great Britain, we took a ferry ride to Tangier Island, VA, about 1.5 hours off shore. It is a beautiful trip southwest into Chesapeake Bay. The ferry does not transfer cars so the islanders get around on foot, bicycle, golfcart and motorcycle. About 700 people live here, all believed to be descendants of the first British settlers. They speak a dialect which can be a challenge to understand; some linguists believe that because of their isolation and intermarriage, the residents speak like the settlers did over 300 years ago. Three quarters of the island is uninhabitable marshland; the only industries are shellfishing and tourism. The houses are small and the few stores are just converted houses. A large, beautiful Methodist Church is there as well as a K-12 school. A typical graduation class is 7 students.

By now we had tasted a dessert known as Smith Island Cake, the state dessert of Maryland. We New Yorkers had not heard of this before. The classic is ten very thin layers of white cake, with fudge filling and frosting, but there are now variations including devil’sfood and coconut. The first floor of our motel turned out to be a packing and shipping depot for these cakes; everyday a Fedex truck came and loaded the truck with big polystyrene boxes to be shipped all over the country. But how did they get there? There was no bakery in our building.

The mystery

Road Scholar Trip continued on page 4.
was solved by another outing, a ferry to Smith Island, just a little closer than Tangier. The only bakery for Smith Island Cake is there and we watched the kitchen staff produce thin cake layers in huge quantities at the same time. This is a major industry on the island for women; the men are watermen (MD name for crab/oyster harvesters). Smith Island has a population of about 300; the younger children go to elementary school there. Older children and teenagers go to Crisfield by the ferry. So the boat is no more available to tourists than a working school bus. They finish delivering the students to Crisfield by 9:30 am; do one run for tourists, landing at 11:00 am and must set off to Crisfield again at 1:30 pm. You can see how tourism is not booming on Smith Island.

There is a lovely Methodist church (the minister doubles as a walking tour guide) and one restaurant able to accommodate our group of 40. The same was true of Tangier Island.

On the way to Smith Island, someone spotted two bald eagles on the top of a chimney from a demolished menhaden processing plant on an island. We were prepared on the way home with cameras and binoculars; one of the eagles was still there and we saw him, enormous, dark, with a glorious white head.

Crisfield is proud to be the birthplace of Steve and Lem Ward, founders of the art form known as decoy carving and painting. We visited the original workshop from the 1930’s, looking as if the brothers would return any minute. Today Ward Brothers decoys sell for thousands of dollars.

Crisfield produced one governor of MD, H. Millard Tawes. His home is now a historic site and we had a lovely dinner there of softshell crabs, oysters, etc, and Smith Island Cake., fruity this time.

We also visited a crabpicking company, where hard shell blue claw crabs are brought in by the barrel and cooked in a huge steamer; then women pick the crabeat out to be canned or made into crabcakes. We learned how to tell the sexes apart: a male has lines that look like the Washington Monument on his carapace; the female has lines that look like the Capitol Dome.

Live soft shell crabs are shipped on damp straw. They can live that way for four days. Soft shells are harvested by keeping hard shells, ready to molt, in water-filled shallow trays (“floats”) stored in the crab shacks, until they shed their shells. Before the new shell begins to develop, the crabs are harvested.

After a lesson on how to eat hardshell blue claw crabs, one evening we had a traditional Maryland crab dinner. The tablecloths were covered in brown wrapping paper; each table got a platter of crabs, wooden mallets and some sides (macaroni salad, cole slaw, cornbread and fried chicken for those who got tired of getting the meat out of the shells). The meal ended with Smith Island Cake, of course.

On the last day we visited the local Coast Guard station and learned how the service men and women maintain peace and order and also rescue boaters who are in trouble. The guardsmen were all trim and muscular but the woman in charge of our tour looked a bit lumpy and her tunic was baggy; then we all realized, from the pleats and tabs on her side seams, that the US Coast Guard has regulation maternity uniforms!

Our last event: Don entered the cake shipping rooms and sought one to bring home for my birthday two days later. He emerged with a fullsize Smith Island cake, ten layers of devilsfood, with raspberry filling and chocolate fudge frosting. It was packed to make the five hour trip home successfully. For the first time, all seven of our grandchildren gathered for a birthday.

Last March we went to Santa Fe, NM on a Road Scholar trip, which is another story. One of the other scholars was disappointed that we did not get to meet “everyday local” people. That may have been because Santa Fe is very much a tourist mecca. In Crisfield, however, we had local guides who spent hours with us and we felt we got to know what it must be like to live in a town of 2,700, so near yet so far from Washington and Baltimore.

Pat Hayes

**CATALOG CORRECTIONS**

Despite numerous proof-readings, we goofed, so please make the following corrections to your Spring 2015 Catalog:

- **p. 7** – Spring Luncheon is Wednesday, May 6th; **p. 9** - Rohman Holidays meet on Mondays March 2,9,16,23; **p. 10** – ALL THAT JAZZ meets from 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.; **p. 12** – ANCIENT EGYPT meets from 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.; **p. 14** – BIOETHICAL ISSUES meets from 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.; **p. 15** LITERARY DISCUSSION has only 7 sessions.
HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

My apologies to you all; I did not get to ChristChurch, Oxford, England this summer to study “Mary, Queen of Scots” and report on my adventure. I am sure you were all waiting excitedly to discover if Mary should have been the successor to her cousin, “Bloody Mary”, daughter of Henry VIII and Katharine of Aragon. To be honest, I do think the Brits were just as happy that Anne Boleyn’s daughter, Elizabeth, assumed the throne and brought about the Elizabethan Age. We’d have missed Shakespeare, Sir Walter Raleigh, the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and a ton of movies about the Virgin Queen portrayed by Bette Davis, Judith Dench, Cate Blanchett , Sarah Bernhardt, et al.

In lieu of Oxford, I spent the summer totally surprised to discover I was not invincible. Who knew that growth on my back could be a malignant melanoma? Certainly, not me. Hey, I could not see it so I do have an excuse. In early June I finally visited a dermatologist, confident I was fine. A week later, a second dermatologist dug up my back; he was from Brooklyn so we chatted about the old neighborhood while he removed the malignancy. But, he was alarmed and put in an eight day stay during which I was fed bags. IV’s fed me saline and morphine; I thought I was in “Mash” when I heard they were administering the morphine. Days went by and an ERCP was performed; they removed a stone from the bile duct and left a “stent” in. Now, I was finally ready for the gall bladder surgery; I was told it might take about an hour; I tried to warn them I never do anything the easy way; I was right. It took over 2 hours and I was intubated with half an oak tree. When, I finally reached an acceptable oxygen level, I was brought back to a new room to recover. My brother, son and daughter in law arrived to “visit the sick” and I had no chance to rest. We laughed and laughed; and, boy, was it painful! But, sore throat, or no, I managed to talk. Actually, I was happy to hear the next AM from the surgeon, that I had recovered better than his 40 year old patients. Can’t keep us octogenarians down!

Happily, I’m now recovering; someone better remind me that I have to get that “stent” out of my bile duct. I might forget about it.

P.S. The main issue of the post operative conversation was the “egg cream” and its creation. My brother and I do not agree on the contents and process. He insists it be 21 “doggie bags”. Ivon’s fed me saline and morphine; I thought I was in “Mash” when I heard they were administering the morphine. Days went by and an ERCP was performed; they removed a stone from the bile duct and left a...

Editor’s Note: Eileen Potash, who has delighted us and continues to do so in this edition with her wry humor and offbeat way of looking at things, is recovering from recent surgeries at Amsterdam House in Manhattan, 112th Street in New York. We wish Eileen a speedy recovery and look forward to laughing at her witty observations once again.
MEMBER NEWS

Sad to say, death comes to everyone, including LIRIC members. The following members have passed away. Theodore Jordan, Kathryn Hull, Edna McCallion, and former members Edie Rosenblatt and Arlene Kaplan. Former member Grace Cippola lost her dear husband, Frank. Our sincere condolences go to all the families who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Priscilla Goldberg is spending some time at a rehabilitation center due to the frail state of her health. You can send Priscilla a get-well card at: Ramapo Manor Center for Rehabilitation, 30 Cragmere Road, Suffern, NY 10901. We look forward to seeing her sweet smile soon again.

Past President Don Hayes and wife Pat are rejoicing over the birth of not one, but two beautiful granddaughters. Twins Amelie and Cordelia Hayes arrived 8 weeks earlier than expected. Their delighted (but tired) parents are Belinda and Paul Hayes. Congratulations to the happy family.

WINTERTHUR

On Wednesday, October 15th, LIRIC's #1 fall trip headed south to Delaware to Winterthur, the Henry Francis duPont estate. In addition to the house and gardens, the tour included the costumes of Downton Abbey, the popular television show on PBS. The ad for this particular exhibit read as follows: "Step into the world of Downton Abbey and the contrasting world of Winterthur founder Henry Francis duPont and his contemporaries in the first half of the 20th century. View 40 exquisite costumes and accessories worn upstairs and downstairs on the critically acclaimed drama series".

Upon our arrival we were scheduled to have lunch at the Winterthur Cafe where we were given a voucher which included several entree choices plus dessert and a drink.

After lunch we would have some time to see the gardens designed by duPont before our actual tour of the house was to begin. Unfortunately it started to rain and the trams stopped running. For the tour of the house we were divided into several groups. Our docent, Joseph, provided us with much information.

Almost 60 years ago, Henry Francis duPont, who was a collector and horticulturist, opened his childhood home, Winterthur (pronounced winter-tour) to the public. In 1837 Irene duPont's daughter, Evelina, named the property Winterthur in honor of her husband's ancestral home in Switzerland. Henry Francis duPont said it was a desire to "show America as it had been" had led him to create the period settings his guests enjoyed and visitors see today at Winterthur. During the construction of the 1928-30 addition to the house, duPont installed historic architectural interiors and filled the spaces with early American decorative arts. He created rooms that reflected both the best of early America and the height of fashion for duPont's own time. The rooms used as family living areas and spaces to entertain guests became the backdrop for the display of duPont's growing collections of antique furniture, silver, needlework, textile, paintings, prints, ceramics and glass.

Today Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts with an unparallel collection of nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America between about 1640-1860. The collection is displayed in the magnificent 175-room house, much as it was when the duPont family lived there. Note: we didn't visit all of the 175 rooms but those that we did see were exquisite. We passed thru several "galleries" of metalwork, a collection of soup tureens, candelabra, and place settings.

After our official tour of the house, we were on our own to view the Costumes of Downton Abbey, which is an original exhibition of designs from the award-winning television show. Forty historically-inspired costumes are displayed and supplemented by photographs and vignettes also inspired by the fictional program and by real life.
RSIN

What on earth is it and how, for heaven’s sake, is it pronounced?

Well, the letters are an acronym for: Road Scholar Institute Network. There, that clears that up! It is pronounced Risen--now you know all! Nope!

LIRIC is a Lifetime Learning Institute of which there are presently some 400 or so throughout the US. More than 50 years ago someone at Elderhostel woke up one morning and thought: why do we have to travel to learn? Why can't we stay home and do the same thing at colleges that will have us? And so creative thinkers started developing ideas for schools for older folk. The idea took hold and ergo LIRIC was founded 23 years ago with Iona as our willing host.

It wasn't long before there were groups of us around the country and sharing ideas and thoughts. A network of them was formed and so the EIN was then born: the Elderhostel Institute Network. Are you with me so far?

Now you need to fast forward to 3 years ago when again, someone at Elderhostel awoke one morning and thought: people are not so quick to join that Elder thing because that would mean you are old. We need a new name that describes who we are and what we do, without calling ourselves old. Ergo, the nice neutral appellation of Road Scholar with the new name of RSIN for the institute which translates into Road Scholar Institute Network! The hardest thing to remember is that indeed RSIN is pronounced RISEN.

Lila Ogman

RECOMMENDED FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

At the conclusion of his discussion of Alan Bennett’s novella *The Uncommon Reader* in the January course *The Royals*, Arthur Feinberg, an uncommon reader himself, shared with the class a list of his favorite books. We’re including Arthur’s list here, and invite you to contact Barbara Mohalley, editor of the newsletter, with your own recommendations.

Fiction
*Transatlantic*, by Colum McCann
*The Cloud Atlas*, by Liam Callanan *(NOT the book on which the movie was based!)*
*The Space Between Us*, by Thirty Umrigar *(set in India)*
*The Lowland*, by Jumpha Lahiri
*The Bookshop*, by Penelope Fitzgerald
*Where’d You Go, Bernadette?*, by Maria Semple
*We Are Not Ourselves*, by Michael Thomas
*Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline
*Me Before You*, by Jojo Moyes *(about a paraplegiac)*
*All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr *(about blindness)*
*The Postmistress*, by Sarah Blake *(set during World War II)*
*A Star for Mrs. Blake*, by April Smith *(WWI gold-star mothers meet in Europe)*
*The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by Richard Flanagan *(Man Booker Award winner)*
*The Reckoning*, by Rennie Airth *(a mystery)*

Non-Fiction
*The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson *(the great Northern Migration)*
*My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor
*Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?*, by Roz Chast *(a graphic book)*
*A Fighting Chance*, by Elizabeth Warren
THANKSGIVING REMEMBERED

by Norma Abele

Thanksgiving Day 2014 has come and gone
The cooks of the feast are tired and worn
Each year the original purpose of the day
Diminishes as quickly as a summer storm.

What has happened to the old fashioned way
Of family and friends just enjoying the day?
And yes, just taking time to be thankful and pray
As church bells peal with their message to say

Now the meal must be rushed to get to the Mall
Amid hordes of shoppers, both large and small
Tempers are short and manners are forgotten
As aggressive actions become more bold
To seize the best bargains before all have been sold

If energy is lacking after the sumptuous meal
Perhaps watching a football game on TV is a much better deal
And quickly the arms of Morpheus accompanies a nap and a snore
With a sudden awakening and, "What is the score?"

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, February 27th
Spring Classes begin

Week of March 30th to April 4th
NO CLASSES

Thursday, April 30th
General Membership Meeting
with light lunch

Saturday, May 2nd
Spring Classes end

Wednesday, May 6th
Spring Luncheon
at Davenport Club

Tuesday, July 7th
Summer Classes start

Tuesday, July 28th
Summer Classes end

Sunday, September 13th
Open House

Body and Soul

Chef John DePascale returned once again to talk about the nature of "comfort food" and demonstrated the ease of preparing it. Two weeks later Dr. Sibdas Ghosh, Iona's Professor & Dean, School of Arts and Science, gave us a culinary trip through India as he explained how to cook several Indian specialties. Members lined up at the bountiful table to sample "Nan" (Indian bread), "Lamb Korma" (curried lamb), and "Semiya Payasam" a delicious dessert similar to our rice pudding. Both of these classes were very well attended, proving that knowledge is sweet - but even sweeter if you can taste it!

Winterthur

Continued from page 6

at Winterthur so that visitors have the chance to compare both.

The exhibit gives us the opportunity of a behind-the-scenes look at their costumes and reminds us that we are looking at costumes and not at actual historic garments. The costumes show us the contrast and comparison between the fictional but historically accurate British country estates in the period drama and the real life American version of the same era at Winterthur,

The photographs and vignettes of the television show and life at Winterthur illuminate the similarities and differences in the etiquette, traditions and environments of each.

As an avid Downton Abbey fan, I truly enjoyed this one-of-a-kind exhibition and I know I can vouch for those on the trip including my daughter visiting from South Carolina who also are fans of the show.

It was a very long day but very worthwhile. Again, many thanks to Florence Wagner for putting this trip together.

Barbara Nissim