

LIRIC

The Happening

A Member of **Road Scholar** LLI Resource Network
Fall 2016

www.iona.edu/liric

FALL – LOOKING AHEAD

“*Something For Everyone*” should be the motto for the Fall ’16 LIRIC course offerings. Once again, Linda Whetzel and her Curriculum Committee have put together a program that ranges far and wide, covering a multitude of disciplines, and offering something for a variety of interests. Is there a Monet, a Rockwell, or a Hemingway among you? Would you like to better interpret poetry or understand a painting? Expand your horizons this term. In arts and literature, there are courses in poetry, play reading, an art workshop, a writing workshop, learning a way to view art, a jazz course, and a drawing course.

In history and politics, courses involving the presidency, news and views, powerful women in history, and a whole series about Russia are being offered.

In addition, there are an eclectic array of courses involving travel, tai-chi, evolution, the I-phone, cyber security, and science and religion..

Take one course-take many. With all these choices, it will be hard to narrow down which of these stimulating, thoughtful, mind-expanding courses you will take.

From The Editor

After many years, Barbara Mohalley has “retired” from editing the LIRIC Newsletter. [see the article “The Mohalleys” within this edition]. I’m sure that the entire LIRIC community is grateful for her many years of service.

So this is a new beginning of sorts. Besides a new editor, the Newsletter will have a new name: *The Happening*.

Another new beginning: *The Happening* will come to LIRIC’s members via e-mail. It can be read on line or printed-that’s up to each member. So...It’s important that LIRIC have permission to send this to you by e-mail. The “opt-in” form in your welcome packet should be filled out and returned on the first day you attend LIRIC.

Printed copies of *The Happening* will be available when courses begin.

And now, (drum roll please!).....read on.

Chuck Miller

President's Message:

Chris McCormick

I am honored being elected President of LIRIC for the next two- year term. Many know that I have been president for a few months over the past board term, due to the unfortunate illness of our then president, Carole Horn. You might say as president, that I've had the practice. Yes, I have - working with a talented executive board.

By far, the most recognized board achievement for the past year is the move to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Surely you can see the improved space & facilities for our meetings; the parking works so well for us, and all this - with the caveat of being accepted and wanted by Father Nicholas Anctil and his GOC staff. This move was all the result of an Ad Hoc "New Venue Committee". This committee met many times, in many places, in all kinds of weather, up and down stairs, followed leads, meeting with venue representatives of various types, and summarizing their findings for board approval. Thanks to them, we are now meeting in an appropriate, comfortable surrounding, which can easily support LIRIC growth.

As we begin our new year, I want to remind all LIRIC members that we are bonded together with the desire - to learn. We owe our success to our sponsorship by Iona College. Iona has been with LIRIC from the beginning, allowing the use of their facilities for our lecture series, film series and computer classes, providing us their faculty members for lectures in our curriculum program, and establishing an audit program at the College, where we can get a more

structured education.

I feel so lucky to have found LIRIC, and hope you agree!

Director's Message:

Suzanne Page

I am writing this on Labor Day, feeling feeling rested, ready and excited for our Fall session!

We'll be trying out a new method of communicating with you this fall. Because 85% of our members last year used an email address, it's time to adopt an email notification system. We hope this will help us keep you informed of last minute schedule changes, and cancellations due to bad weather. Weather closings will still be announced on local media, (the last page of your catalog tells you where), but we hope this new system will be better and more convenient. We are very careful of your privacy and will require you to "opt in" to this new system by submitting the blue form you will find in your Welcome Packet.

After 20 years of bringing us, *The LIRIC Letter*, Barbara Mohalley has passed her editor's pencil to Chuck Miller. Barbara's shoes are hard to fill, (and Chuck would look funny in them anyway) so Chuck is changing a few things. This 1st edition of *The Happening* is being delivered to you by email. Future editions will be emailed only to those of you who complete that blue "opt in" form. Welcome back!

Suzanne

LIRIC - A LOOK BACK

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A SIMPLE but powerful idea, one that was nurtured by then IONA president Driscoll, and led to the founding of LIRIC in 1993. Desire to learn knows no age boundaries. Retirees do not stop seeking knowledge, do not stop seeking opportunities to explore new horizons, and are interested in continuing their intellectual growth with their peers.

The antecedent of LIRIC was a “Senior Plus” program held at the now extinct IONA Yonkers campus prior to LIRIC’s founding. Peggy Cashman’s 1998 article which was reprinted in the June, 2014, THE LIRIC NEWSLETTER, wrote that IONA began an experimental program in the Fall, 92 and Spring, 93 terms on the New Rochelle campus following the closing of the Yonkers campus. Ultimately, this led to an organizational meeting held in IONA’s Spellman Hall on May 14, 1993, and the launching of LIRIC. LIRIC began by offering six courses in the Fall,93 term.

IONA agreed to sponsor the program officially known as “Learning in Retirement at Iona College” or LIRIC and it was clear from the beginning that the program had to be self-supporting and would receive no direct financial support from the college. However, the college does provide support in various ways when deemed “possible and appropriate”, and this indirect support is vital. Although, the details of the relationship were initially vague, they have developed over the years. LIRIC’s bond with IONA remains as strong as ever.

LIRIC is now in its 5th “home” beginning with the main New Rochelle IONA campus, then Wildcliff, followed by the Elks Club, Juliano’s Caterers, and presently, the Greek Orthodox Church. Since beginning with several dozen members, LIRIC has grown to a membership involving hundreds. From the initial six courses, there are now dozens offered.

The truth of that initial idea still remains the guiding light of LIRIC which will celebrate 25 years during 2017-2018.

Hey, Look Us Over!!!!

Thanks to Kathleen Fredrick, Publicity Chair, and Suzanne Page, our Director, LIRIC was included in a feature article in the Westchester Senior Voice Fall issue. The WSV is a new publication that is available on-line, and free in hard copy to banks, doctor offices, libraries, etc. The link is <http://www.westchesterseni.orvoice.com/> click current issue at the top left of the screen. LIRIC is always on the look out to reach new members.

Spotlight On : Barbara and Frank Mohalley

Can't call them "newbies", Barbara, former editor of the Newsletter, and Frank, the current Treasurer, have been LIRIC members since 1995 joining shortly after their move from the Bronx. Knowing few people, they responded to an article in the Sunday Times describing an art class given by LIRIC. They joined and have been active ever since.

Barbara had been a community activist and served as a speech writer, publicist, and newsletter editor for various governmental and community organizations. She met Frank in 1982 when she worked as YMCA Assistant Financial Officer ("and I can't even do math"). They married in 1985. Frank, a retired banker, has been LIRIC treasurer since 1996. Barbara headed the Newsletter for 20 years.

Congratulations as well as Sympathy Announcements should be sent to Barbara Mohalley at mohalleys@optonline.net

Barbara describes LIRIC as an "organization that utilizes members skills and past lives." It differs from many other senior learning programs because it provides a "social component beyond the classes" where members meet other members, and form friendships. As for the Newsletter, Barbara edited and wrote, while Frank provided technical and production support.

The hardest part of producing the Newsletter is providing content. "People are afraid that they can't do it" and they are pleasantly surprised that they can. How to get writers? "Cajole, beg, and embarrass in front of people"--whatever it takes.

Barbara and Frank have 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren with one more on the way. They used to travel more, and especially enjoyed the riches of NYC culture. Today, they enjoy movie going, and eating out locally. They enjoy the four seasons, and are not interested in being "snow-birds" in the winter. Barbara and Frank are doers, and they, along with many other LIRIC'ers, provide the backbone and energy as the organization celebrates its 24th year.

LIRIC Executive Board

President: Chris McCormick; Vice-President: Teddi Cerino; Vice-President: Linda Levine;
Secretary: Eileen Potash; Treasurer: Frank Mohalley

Committee Chairs

Curriculum: Linda Whetzel; Finance: Marguerite Fredrick; Hospitality: Jerry Millman
Membership: Lorraine Rosano; Publicity: Kathleen Fredrick; Special Events: Florence Wagner
Member Liaison: Teddi Cerano; The Happening Editor: Chuck Miller
Past President: Don Hayes; RS Liaison: Lila Ogman;
At Large: Gail Apfel, Greg Koster, Barbara Mohalley
Director: Suzanne Page, Ph.D.

LIRIC ON THE MOVE-BY TRAIN, BOAT, BUS

Special Event Chair Florence Wagner has done it again. There will be two great trips this Fall for LIRIC'ers. The first will be October 19th to Essex, Connecticut involving a two hour train ride aboard the Essex Steam Train and a three-course lunch, followed by a one and one-half hour Becky Thatcher Riverboat cruise along the Connecticut River. The Fall foliage at that time of year should insure that the trip will be memorable.

A second trip will take on December 7th as LIRIC'ers will travel to Caramoor to enjoy song, music and high tea in the Majestic Music Room. Prior to the concert, there will be a tour of the Rosen House, a stunning Mediterranean villa. Reservations for that trip are due by October 21st.

In addition, check the IONA and LIRIC Calendar of events located elsewhere in the *The Happening* for events throughout the term.

Hey!!!! Got an idea for an article about which other LIRIC'ers would enjoy reading... or better yet - you have the urge to write such an article.... JUST DO IT! Send to csm611@aol.com.

FALL EVENTS LIRIC/IONA

Oct 2- 1pm: Works of Dalton Ghatti- Chapman Gallery

Oct 5- 7pm: Music Faculty Program-"Haven't I Heard That Before"- Romita Auditorium-Ryan Library-\$5 for LIRIC*

Oct 7-Dec 2- 1 pm: LIRIC Series on Russia-Murphy Auditorium

Oct 7-Dec 2- 2:30 pm: LIRIC Russian Film Series-Murphy Auditorium

Oct 13-9am: LIRIC New Member Breakfast-GOC

Oct 19- LIRIC Trip: Essex Steam Train and River Cruise

Oct 22-8 pm- Symphony of Westchester-Murphy Auditorium- Free for LIRIC*

Nov 2- 4&7 pm: Performance-"Yasmina's Necklace" Romita Auditorium, Ryan Library- Free

Nov. 5&6-3 pm: Sound Shore Chorale-"The Emperor" Arrigoni Center

Nov 17,18: 7pm, 19,20: 1 pm-Emile Zola's "Therese Raquin" - Doorley Auditorium.-\$5 for LIRIC*

Dec 1-11:45am: LIRIC General Membership Meeting and Lunch -GOC

Dec 2-3pm: Winter Concert- Instrumental/Vocal Ensembles Murphy Auditorium- Free

Dec 7- LIRIC TRIP- Musicale/High Tea at Caramoor

Dec 11-3pm- Symphony of Westchester- Murphy Auditorium- Free to LIRIC*

Dec 13-12noon: LIRIC Winter Luncheon-Davenport on The Sound

*LIRIC members should wear LIRIC tag

LIRIC and ROAD SCHOLAR

LIRIC is part of a nationwide network known as Lifetime Learning Institutes or LLI. All 400 LLIs are affiliated with Road Scholar, formerly known as Elderhostel. Lila Ogman is the LIRIC liaison with Road Scholar and represents it at various LLI meetings and conferences. The network facilitates both communication and collaboration among member LLIs which improves their visibility in their home communities. This helps LIRIC keep abreast of what other similar organizations are doing throughout the country and learning about the latest trends and ideas for programs. It is another example of LIRIC's continued interest in improving its product for the benefit of all its members.

CALLING ALL CLOSET CARUSOS AND FLEMINGS

From The Sound Shore Chorale:

Rejoice!! Iona College hosts a community chorus open to all, and free to students and staff of Iona, including LIRIC members. **The Sound Shore Chorale**, founded in 1979, performs a variety of choral music from masterworks by Schubert and Haydn to hilarious choruses by Gilbert & Sullivan. The Chorale is inter-denominational and inter-generational, and there are no auditions!! Simply come to a Monday evening rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 in the lovely Arrigoni Center, and try us out. Some of our singers are novices, while others are experienced or even professional singers. Together we are much, much more than the sum of our parts!! Conductor Richard Slade, a noted voice teacher locally, at Yale University, and on Skype, leads us in learning and polishing our diverse repertoire while also improving vocal technique. Pianist Diane Guernsey of the Manhattanville College faculty ably assists us at the keyboard. 914-512-5957 or <http://www.soundshorechorale.org>.

OPEN HOUSE DRAWS LARGE CROWD

LIRIC was on display as a large crowd attended the annual Open House on September 11, 2016 in Spellman Hall at IONA College. LIRIC President Chris McCormick welcomed the assembled, and asked for a moment of silence for the fallen of September 11th. Chris spoke about LIRIC's mission, the importance of LIRIC's association with IONA College, the perks of the IONA-LIRIC relationship for LIRIC members, and about LIRIC's home at the Greek Orthodox Church. Curriculum Chair Linda Whetzel followed, and introduced the many "presenters", the teachers or coordinators, of each of the courses being offered in Fall, 2016. Refreshments following the presentations.

FROM PLAN TO PRESENTATION:

The Making of a LIRIC Program-PART 1 Linda Whetzel, Curriculum Chair

Now that you've gotten your fall catalogs, our newsletter editor thought that you'd like to know how we (LIRIC's Curriculum Committee) plan the courses and put them into place. Believe me, it's not easy! Since we've just started working on Spring 2017, let me walk you through the process.

The first thing we have to do is to settle on the dates that we'll have classes. After all, we can't start offering dates to our presenters until we know for certain what those dates will be. Sounds simple, right? Not always. Fall's not terribly complicated, but nowadays in the spring we have to consider not only Iona's spring break and Easter vacation, but Passover and Greek Orthodox Easter as well. (You may recall we had a very strange schedule this past spring because they were in three different months!) 2017 will be easier, we trust, because the Christian and Greek Orthodox Easters are the same day and Passover, blessedly, is earlier in the week.

Then we slot in our old stalwarts – those classes that have been running, usually, in the same time slot for almost twenty years: play-reading, art workshop, writing workshop, literary discussion (which alternates between Tuesdays and Thursdays depending on our other program needs, but always at 2:00 p.m.), Friday lectures and the Friday film and technology classes. (For those of you who've wondered why our classes on the Iona campus are always on Friday – it's because that's the only day they have room for us. Most students finish classes by noon on Fridays, making the parking lots, the auditoriums and the computer labs available to us.)

Next we look at what other courses we already have in the hopper – News and Views in the fall, Great Decisions in the spring, a jazz class from Greg Koster, and a series from Ray Peckauskas – and figure out how many additional classes (and time slots) we need to fill. Believe it or not, this has become less difficult over the years as presenting at LIRIC carries a new cachet among the Iona faculty; they consider it an honor, rather than a chore, to speak to us. Our biggest challenge with Iona people giving mid-week classes lies in coordinating their teaching schedules with our class times – they simply don't match up, which means we sometimes have to ask willing speakers to wait another semester so we can fit them in. (Ed. Note: Part 2 in the next issue)

Remember: Age is a case of mind over matter.

If you don't mind it, it doesn't matter.

...The Happening