

CLIR VOICE

www.clirsf.org



November, 2011

President's Message

Our community of living and learning in retirement, makes a difference in my daily life. That's no exaggeration.

Four years ago I moved to California and joined CLIR. While I came here to follow some of my children, they were the only people in the area I knew. Retirement thus presented me with the additional challenge of learning new places and new faces.

A current trend in the learning life field is PATH. The four letters of "PATH" can be understood as:

- P - People who appear on your path to help you fulfill your purpose
- A - Actions taken on opportunities
- T - Thoughts that help you create a life of meaning and significance
- H - Moments of Happiness and Bliss.

Certainly the people of CLIR stand out as reasons why I'm enjoying myself in this fortunate location. You have brought a good deal of fun, frolic and new knowledge into my life. By offering me the opportunity to serve as CLIR's President, you help fulfill my purpose at this stage in life.

In working with you and our developing community I have become more aware of all the opportunities around me. My thinking is much broader as I see meaning and significance in so much that crosses my path that I'd previously failed to perceive. Without all this I could easily have been swallowed in loss. CLIR and work on our community's behalf, has resulted in moments of happiness and bliss.

This month we'll be kicking-off the Brain Optimization class. I'll throw-out some points of creative thinking by first graders who were presented with the first half of a well-known proverb and asked to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Among their responses :

1. Strike while the.....*bug is close*.
2. It's always darkest before.....*Daylight Saving Time*.
3. Never underestimate the power of.....*termites*.
4. You can lead a horse to water but.....*how?*
5. Don't bite the hand that.....*looks dirty*.
6. No news is.....*impossible*.

And finally let me close with words by San Francisco's Eric Hoffer, which could well be a CLIR motto: *In times of change, the learners will inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.*

—*Robby Kiley*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 1
New Class
United States History
- November 2
New Class
Optimizing Brain
Fitness
- November 3
New Activity
Bridge
- November 4
General Meeting
Social Hour Follows
- November 11
CLIRsights
- November 21-25
CLIR OFFICE CLOSED
- November 24
Happy Thanksgiving
- December 2
Holiday Gala
- December 15
Art on the GO
Holiday Tea

NAME BADGE

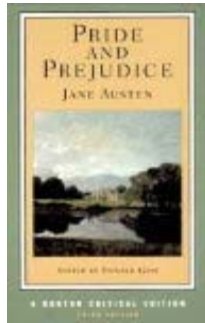
**PLEASE WEAR YOURS
AT OUR GENERAL
MEETINGS**

Class Updates

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, November 22, 11:00am
Evelyn Forsman

Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen. This is the first of a project to be held over an extended length of time. We'll read all six of Jane Austen's novels. Are there some "Janeites" out there who wish to join in?



©Amazon

DOWN MEMORY LANE

1st & 3rd Thursdays (Nov. 3 & Nov. 17), 10:00am
Linda Howe-Steiger,

Flexible, easy-going, no homework, but it is guaranteed you'll be surprised by what you remember. Whether or not you made it to the first two sessions, everyone is welcome to join in. When you look back from our elevated positions, even the worst of times can look different. This month we focus filling in our lifelines, dates and places for events both mundane and important. We practice strategies sure to give your stories and reminiscences clear focus and emotional impact as we write and share short pieces stimulated from writing prompts. Bring questions about your memoir efforts, and we'll try to answer them or point you in a helpful direction.

HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

First & Third Tuesdays, 1:00pm

Tania Yates,

Professor Bob Brier, Egyptologist, delivers these lectures through the auspices of The Teaching Company.

November 1—Lecture 35 is about ancient Egyptian magic. Dr. Brier tries to distinguish magic from religion and discusses a plot to kill a pharaoh by magic. Lecture 36 discusses Dynasty XXI - where Egypt is divided. Egypt becomes a tale of two cities - Thebes and the Delta.

November 15—Lecture 37 shows us Egypt united by foreigners. For 200 years - as long as the United States has existed - Egypt was ruled by Libyans fighting to restore Egypt's greatness. Also Egypt gets involved with the biblical kingdoms of Judah and Israel. Egypt is divided again.

Lecture 38 Now the Nubians have their turn ruling Egypt. A warrior from the south (Kush) battles a confederation of Egyptian "kings" and unifies Egypt again.

December 6—Note: Lectures 39 and 40 will be shown on this date and the series will resume on February 7, next year.

Class Updates, continued on Page 4

Current Activities

Art on the GO —New Works of Randy Colosky

Museum of Craft and Folk Art
51 Yerba Buena Lane (Near Mission btw 3rd & 4th)
Thursday, November 17, 1:30pm

Fran Hasher

The museum has commissioned this artist to create several site-specific works for the exhibit, *Flat Lux* (Let there be Light). A conceptual artist who uses commonplace and industrial materials, Colosky draws on his family history in the building trade and his training in ceramics. The show features a wide range of materials and media. They range from new sculptures in aluminum, concrete, engineered ceramic honeycomb, brick and reclaimed wood to wall drawings, video and photography. His work will occupy the gallery, façade and outdoor space of the museum on Yerba Buena Lane. Join us for a docent-led tour of this exciting show.

Cost: Seniors \$3 each for a group of 10, \$4 for fewer.

Trans: convenient to BART/muni Metro Powell and Montgomery stations and to many buses.

DINING AND DISCUSSION

Wexler's

568 Sacramento Street

wexlerssf.com

Thursday, November 10, 11:30am

Karla Jones

Luncheon Is Served. That's right. We will be meeting for lunch during the dark days of winter, to return to evening dining when the sun (and daylight savings time) returns. Our first luncheon will take place in the financial district.

Wexler's was originally a San Francisco Firehouse. The smoke and fire theme is translated to both the décor and the menu. A long charcoal grey sculptural installation



glides down the center of the room. It lowers the ceiling, then exits above the doors, serving as a canopy for the entrance and evoking a wave of black smoke. The menu is barbeque inspired southern comfort food.

To join the fun, good food and fellowship call Karla Jones and make a reservation. Remember to bring cash.

Current Activities, continued on Page 4

CLIR CALENDAR, NOVEMBER, 2011

CLIR PHONE: 415 543-3965

by: Gail Schlueck

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31	1	2	3	4
	10:30am - History of USA 1pm - Egypt History	10:30am - Brain Course	10am - Memoir Class 1pm - Bridae	10:30am - Curriculum 12pm - Tours. CLIRsights 12pm - Walks Committee 1:15pm - General Meeting 2pm - Social Hour
7	8	9	10	11
10am - Spanish Class 11:30am - Play Reading 1pm - Current Affairs	10:30am - Morning Walk	10:30am - Pissarro Class 11am - Finance Committee	11:30am - Dining&Discussi	12pm - Vicarious Traveler 1:30pm - CLIRsights
14	15	16	17	18
1pm - Current Affairs	10:30am - History of USA 1pm - Ancient Egypt	10:30am - Brain Course	10am - Memoir Class 1pm - Bridae 1:30pm - Art on the Go	1pm - Council Meeting
21	22	23	24	25
10am - Spanish Class 11:30am - Play Reading 1pm - Current Affairs	11am - Book Discussion 1pm - Movie Club			
28	29	30	1	2
1pm - Current Affairs		10:30am - Brain Course		

Class Updates, continued from P-2

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

First and Third Tuesdays, 10:30am

Tania Yates,

This series from the Teaching Company is presented by three professors. The first is Dr. Allen Guelzo, a professor of American History at Eastern University, who specializes in the period 1750 - 1865. Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor of History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia, will be next, while Dr. Patrick N. Allitt, Professor of History, Emory University, takes us through 2003.

November 1—*Lecture 1 - Living Bravely.* Soup to nuts - Columbus to Clinton. This is a voyage that is going to have more surprises than you might think. We're going to meet all kinds of head-spinning sorts and conditions. *Lecture 2 - Spain, France and the Netherlands.* Once the initial phase of Spanish conquest was over, the Spanish crown obtrusively shouldered its way in and retired or demoted the conquistadores.

November 15 — *Lecture 3 - Gentlemen in the Wilderness.* All of this in-fighting exhausted and distracted England, and it was not until Elizabeth had been securely enthroned for 20 years that attention began to wander back over the western horizon. The repression of Bacon's Rebellion served as a useful reminder that Virginia was, despite benign neglect, still a royal colony.

Lecture 4 - Radicals in the Wilderness. The southern colonies were established mostly for the sake of profit or politics, but there were other English colonies to the far north that were founded mostly for the sake of ideas and religion. The difference has had a lasting impact on the nature of American culture. Enter the jeremiad.

Note: *This series will also be shown on December 6. It will resume on February 7, next year.*

OPTIMIZING BRAIN FITNESS

Wednesday, November 2, 10:30am;

Then: Nov. 16 & 30, Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4

Robby Kiley

This twelve lecture Teaching Company Course teaches us about the brain's ability to change in response to experience. The good news is that no matter how old you are, you still take an active part in influencing brain plasticity. The brain is dependent on your experiences and continues to evolve throughout your lifespan.

November 2: *Lecture 1: How Your Brain Works*

Lecture 2: How Your Brain Changes

November 16: *Lecture 3: Care & Feeding of the Brain*

Lecture 4: Captivity and the Playful Brain

November 30: *Lecture 5: Focusing your Attention*

Lecture 6: Enhancing Your Memory

Current Activities, cont'd from P-2

PISSARRO'S PEOPLE

Docent-led Lecture at CLIR

Wednesday, November 9, 10:30am

A captivating member of the famous group of Impressionists, this major show of his work has brought together paintings from private collections as well as the Tate in London, the Musee d'Orsay in Paris and the Art Institute of Chicago. It will focus on his personal ties and social ideas through engagement with the human figure. A docent will give a comprehensive and illustrated tour to enhance your visit to the exhibit. It will be in San Francisco, October 22 through January 22. **Cost:** \$5. Please sign up and pay by check.

VICARIOUS TRAVELER –

George Lucas and Tom Rothgeisser

Croatia, Slovenia, Trieste

Friday, November 11, noon

Nick Maffei,

Vicariously visit the magnificent Dalmatian Coast and stop at Dubrovnik, with its walled City, Split with its Diocletian Palace and Opatjia (the playground of the Hapsburgs). Then travel into Bosnia and Montenegro and Slovenia. Learn more about the horrors of the 1990's war after the breakup of Yugoslavia and end with everyone's favorite, Trieste, in Italy.

WALK: San Francisco's Castro Neighborhood

Tuesday, November 8, 10:30am (rain cancels)

Meet at the Rainbow Flag, Castro & Market.

Richard Magary

The Castro still is one of the most important LGBT neighborhoods in the world, but it's also so much more. Irish, German, Scandinavian and other working-class traditions stretch back to the 1870's. Now, 21st Century diversity looks forward. Wear comfortable shoes and join us to stroll a few blocks with modest inclines. We'll see stylish new stores and dining destinations, some still-great traditional stores, new public spaces and some spots from history. Optional lunch after the walk at a spot we'll choose on a whim.

Don't forget to VOTE this Election Day, then meet under the giant Rainbow Flag at the SW corner of Castro & Market Streets – **Trans:** MUNI Metro Lines K,L,M,T to Castro Street Station or bus lines 24, 35, 37 and (best of all!) Muni's F-Line Historic Streetcars up Market to Castro.

Coming Attractions

BRIDGE GAMES

Starts: November 3, 1:00pm

First & Third Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm

Barbara Patinkin,

We are just beginning to form this group. Players of every level of expertise are welcome. We hope to create games to interest everyone so that we have an active and energizing time together. This activity was a popular CLIR attraction in bygone years. Will it be again? If you are a bridge player, or a wannabe, try it and find out.



MASTERS OF VENICE

Docent-led Lecture at CLIR

Wednesday, December 14, 10:30am

This world class exhibit arrived at the DeYoung Museum on October 29.

CLIR has engaged a skilled and entertaining docent from the museum to visit us and present a lecture to enhance your enjoyment of it.

Cost: \$5. Watch your December Voice for complete details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mason Wood is a retired Real Estate Broker. He was a Navy pilot during the war. He has lived in various parts of the United States, enjoying a varied career. Mason describes himself as "an outdoor person". He was a skier and still plays tennis. With CLIR he would enjoy Book Discussion, Current Affairs, Photography and the Movie Club. He is thinking about serving on one or more committees, including Curriculum or Outreach. He learned of CLIR from Enid Leff.

Dennis J Setlock is a retired Federal employee, working with Public Assistance and Child Welfare programs. He currently volunteers with Project Homeless Connect and with PAWS (Pets are Wonderful). With CLIR he would be interested in the Current Affairs Forum and the Movie Club but is not sure at this point which committee he might join. He learned about CLIR from George Lucas and Tom Rothgeisser.

Barbara Patinkin is a semi-retired entrepreneur – an on-line retailer. She is a volunteer with Compass Family Services in a children's day care center, and enjoys singing with the SF Sound Wave Chorus, (which incidentally, will be our entertainment for the Holiday Gala on December 2). Quite a few CLIR courses interest her – Art Workshop, Current Affairs, Photography and the Movie Club. She enjoys bridge and has already arranged for a bridge class at CLIR. She has volunteered to help with the Holiday Gala and may join the Office Services Committee. A new member, but obviously already very much involved with CLIR! Thank you, Karla Jones, for introducing her to CLIR.

Welcome!



Pictured here are Barbara and Bill Farrenkopf, Pat Tibbs, Robby Kiley, Ed Klinenberg, Bill and Nancy Zinn, Sol Silver

ANNUAL PICNIC—SEPTEMBER 13

Above are some of the folks who attended our Annual Picnic in Alameda at Crown Memorial Beach. While our area of the park was named Crab Cove, there was nary a crab to be found. But there were blue skies, lovely vistas of land and bay, lots of fellowship and a sufficient number of Canada geese to keep us entertained. We greeted some East-Bay members whom we don't see often enough, like Mary Joyce, Irene Frew and Ruth Belicove. Grand to see you. As usual, the generosity of those attending had us well-fed and comfortable. Some of the more intrepid enjoyed an exploratory walk to conclude this special day. All possible due to Vicki Bell, Robby Kiley and Barbara Farrenkopf.

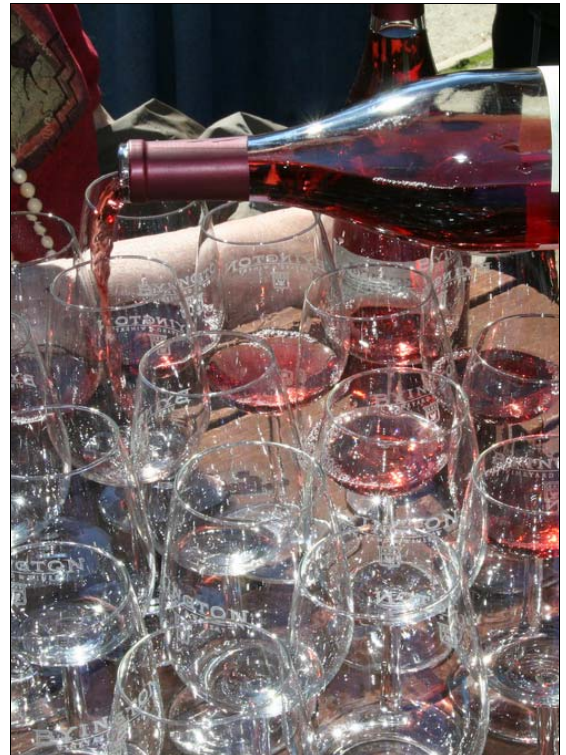
A DAY OF WINE AND GARDENS — OCTOBER 12

Story: Robby Kiley, Picture, Sonnie Willis

A minor glitch at the beginning of our tour was quickly mended by Tom Rothgiesser and Barbara Farrenkopf when the over-large bus provided was exchanged for one that could negotiate the tight curves we would encounter.

At our first stop, the Byington Vineyards, Sol Silver gifted the group with a private tour & tasting. Our personable guide began by relating the winery's historical development as we gathered at the bocce court overlooking the stunning vineyard and enjoyed the first samples. She then led us through the winery explaining the process and pouring. There were champions among us for each of the five Byington's wines we experienced.

This proved just the base for an amazing two hour meal we were served at the Mint Leaf in charming Saratoga. We enjoyed either a delicious soup or salad, and then, even though between us we had nearly a dozen different entrees, each of us were confident that we'd made the best choice. Finally there was the amazing tempura banana with chocolate ice cream. Fortunately there was time for a stroll through charming downtown Saratoga before we boarded our bus for the swift return to 50 First Street chatting away as we completed a day full of wonder. Thanks to Tom, Barbara, Marianne, Joy and Sol who made the arrangements!



At the Winery

CLIR NEWS

CAN YOU DO E-MAIL?

If you can do email, you can help the CLIR Office Task Force.

We are nine strong and would like to recruit three more CLIR members to help staff the office. It would mean we each would only need to work about one day a month. We'll be happy to train you and you will choose which work day is best for you. The CLIR office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, 10:00-2:30 except for national holidays - and we will not staff the office during the weeks of Thanksgiving & Christmas.

We don't work a lot, we just work smart, and we could use your talents, energy, and a little bit of your time. To quote, Karla Jones, a member of the Task Force, "And it's fun!"

E-mail the office at office@clirsf.org to express your interest. We hope to hear from you soon.

IN OTHER NEWS

At our October General Meeting, Robby Kiley announced that on the First of October, access to our quarters at 50 First Street was changed. There is no longer a security guard on duty and it is necessary to use the keypad to gain admission. There is a call button you can use to buzz the office, and there is a keypad you can use to enter our entrance code. The code is available by calling the office. At our General Meeting, Karla Jones, made available 'thank you' cards for the two security personnel who lost their jobs and some members included cash donations for them.

In addition she talked about making CLIR a green organization. She reviewed the proper receptacles for our disposable items. No doubt we will be hearing more about this worthwhile project in coming days and months.

Also at the General Meeting, Annette Berger, our Treasurer, reported that there has been good response for membership renewals. Always a good sign.

And Gail Schlueck announced the addition of Susan Schneider to the Curriculum Committee.

There's a strange little hiatus in a couple of our classes, those concerning Egypt and the new United States History. This is because Tania Yates, our class leader, is off to the Amazon in December. And after tackling that trip, she's about to attempt an equally daunting exercise: that of learning how to do income taxes for AARP. We wish her well in both endeavors and look forward to the return of her classes early in February.

Finally, it's not too early to think about signing up for the Holiday Gala. Details are on page 8.



CLIRights
Friday,
November 11,
1:30pm

Shawn Rosenmoss, Senior Environmental Specialist.

Ms. Rosenmoss is with the San Francisco Department of the Environment, which is responsible for a wide range of programs that constitute a core part of the City and County's vision for sustainability. It deals with urban agriculture, energy, transportation, waste and toxics. She will present some of the environmental issues currently facing San Francisco and the Bay Area, how the City is responding to these issues and how residents and businesses can get involved as well as take advantage of the City's environmental services.

Member
OUR mystery
MYSTERY member
CLIR
MEMBER

Now who was the intrepid daredevil who raced the XK 120 Jaguar at Watkins Glen? Well, folks, it was your editor.

And that, sadly, concludes this feature, begun one year ago in the hope that our members would share with others those silly, embarrassing, memorable or just plain amusing moments that make dinner and cocktail parties fun. Some did. But all good things come to an end. Nevertheless, if you decide, after all, to contribute a moment from your past, we'll resume this feature in a heartbeat, so—*If you would like to be a Mystery Member, send an anecdote from your earlier or present life and/or a picture to dhewetson@sbcglobal.net or to your editor.*

HOLIDAY GALA DECEMBER 2, 1:00pm

First Unitarian-Universalist Church — 1187 Franklin Street

(between Geary and Starr King Way)



**SAN
FRANCISCO
SOUND
WAVE
CHORUS**

**SINGS A MIXTURE OF BARBERSHOP,
SHOW TUNES, HOLIDAY SONGS AND
FUNNY PARODIES**

*You're invited to help by bringing your
favorite treat to share:*

appetizers—side dishes—salads—desserts.

You will be reimbursed for your costs.

*CLIR's Hospitality Committee
will handle the entrees and beverages.*

Your guests are welcome

*Sign up right away.
The deadline for response is
November 30.*

*Make checks payable to CLIR
with GALA in the memo
section.*

\$25

CENTER FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

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DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE
November 12, 2011

November 2011 Issue