

CLIR VOICE

www.clirsf.org



October, 2011

President's Message

Lately I've come across a number of analyses that seem targeted to CLIR, our Community of unpretentious conviviality of Learning in Retirement.

Edith Hamilton wrote: *It has always seemed strange to me that in our endless discussions about education so little stress is laid on the pleasure of becoming an educated person, the enormous interest it adds to life.* When Elizabeth W. Dunn, Daniel T. Gilbert and Timothy D. Wilson researched the vast literature of happiness they concluded: *Buy experiences instead of things; buy many small pleasures instead of a few big ones; pay now for things you can look forward to and enjoy later.* For its annual membership dues CLIR provides all of this to our members.

What small educational pleasures has our community scheduled for the coming year? We're all aware of the many regularly scheduled monthly activities such as Current Events, Book Club, Movie Club, Play Reading, Art on the Go, Dining and Discussion and starting next month, *Optimizing Brain Fitness* and in October a one-time class called *Bag It*. To this the Curriculum Committee is offering a number of new courses and lectures. We'll have a variety of DVD & Discussion courses including *History of the USA* and the *Nature/Tour DVD Series*. Also on-deck are a *Jazz Series Class* by Sonny Buxtom, *Historical CA Characters/Figures*, *Introduction to Drawing & Painting* and docent lectures dealing with upcoming Fine Arts Museum Exhibits on Pissarro and Masters of Venice.

Wow, CLIR members certainly seize the initiative! AND even more ideas and courses were proposed to the Curriculum Committee than it felt could comfortably fit into the foreseeable future.

Clearly CLIR puts lie to the Isak Dinesen statement: *What is it which is bought dearly, offered for nothing, and then most often refused? Experience, old people's experience.*

We know, welcome, learn from and enjoy the Experience of Years. During the 2011-12 year, CLIR will be overflowing with educational opportunities. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you so imbibing!

—Robby Kiley

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 7
General Meeting
Social Hour Follows
- October 12
Tour
- October 13
New Class: Bag It
- October 14
CLIRsights
- October 25-28
Annual Ashland
Shakespeare Trip
- November 2
New Class
Optimizing Brain Fitness
- November 9
Pissarro's People
- 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

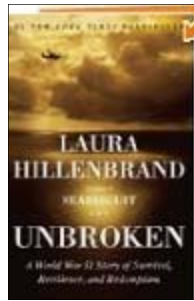
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 11:00am

Bill Gregory

Evelyn Forsman

Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand.

A World War II Story of survival, resilience, and redemption .



©Amazon

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.

October 4 - Exodus - Did it Happen? There is virtually no archaeological evidence for the Exodus. Dr. Brier examines the Egyptological record to see if such events could have occurred.

The decline of Dynasty XIX. Egypt begins its long slide from greatness that will finally end 1,200 years later with the death of Egyptian civilization.

October 18 - Dynasty XX - The Decline Continues. We examine the reign of Ramses III and discuss the mysterious Sea People who contributed to Egypt's decline. *Ancient Egyptian Magic.* Dr. Brier will try to distinguish between religion and magic and discuss the three basic elements of magic - the spell, the ritual and the magician.

BAG IT—Documentary Movie and Discussion

Thursday October 13, 10:30am

Karla Jones

You have heard or read about the huge area in the middle of the world's oceans where the flotsam and jetsam of our society is floating around almost like another continent. This documentary takes you there and to all the places on our globe where plastics are wreaking havoc.

The movie has been garnering awards at film festivals across the nation. What started as a documentary about plastic bags evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans, and even our bodies. The issues covered include plastic bag politics, single use disposables, waste and recycling, human health and marine debris.

Popcorn will be available.

Current Activities

Art on the GO —Houdini: Art and Magic

Contemporary Jewish Museum

736 Mission St. (near 3rd St.)

Thursday, October 20, 2:00pm

Fran Hasher

Handcuffs, shackles, straitjackets, milk cans, packing trunks – nothing could hold Harry Houdini (1874-1926), the renowned magician and escape artist who became one of the 20th century's most legendary performers. With a talent for self-promotion, he rocketed to international fame and grabbed front page headlines with his gripping theatrical presentations and heart-stopping outdoor spectacles.

On display are many objects including magic apparatus, historic photographs, dramatic art nouveau-era posters, theater ephemera plus archival and silent films. Contemporary works of art showing Houdini's lasting impact on art and culture are on display.

Meet in the museum lobby where we join a public docent-led tour of the show. **Cost:** Senior admission: \$10 **Transportation:** Convenient to BART/Muni Metro Montgomery and Powell Stations and many buses.

DINING AND DISCUSSION

Teatro ZinZanni —Pier 29

zinzanni.org

October 20, 6:00pm

Karla Jones

Something a little different happens in October. Buy your tickets for a bewitching evening of European Cabaret and Cirque, Divas and Madmen, Spectacle and Sensuality with Live Music and a Gourmet Five-Course Dinner – set in the nightclub of your dreams! This is an intoxicating blend of interactive theater, spectacle, fine arts and fine dining.

It is set along San Francisco's historic waterfront at Pier 29 at the foot of Sansome Street.

Cost: General admission is usually \$117 but your CLIR price is \$106 which needs to be purchased by Wednesday, October 12th

with a check to Karla Jones. In addition there will be a bill at the end of the evening for each person of \$12 (intended as a gratuity) plus the cost of any drinks you order.

Check their website for more information. Reserve by telephoning Karla Jones.



Photo: Teatro ZinZanni

CLIR CALENDAR, OCTOBER, 2011

CLIR phone: (415) 543-3965

by Gail Schluack

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>10 am - Spanish Class</p> <p>11:30 am - Play Reading</p> <p>1 pm - Current Affairs</p> <p>6 pm - Coming of Age</p>	<p>1 pm - Egypt History</p>		<p>10 am - Memoir Class</p> <p>1 pm - 1:00pm Bridge</p> <p>1 pm - Ashland Orientation</p>	<p>10:30 am - Curriculum</p> <p>12 pm - Tours. CLIRsights^a</p> <p>1:15 pm - General Meeting</p> <p>2 pm - Social Hour</p>
<p>1 pm - Current Affairs</p> <p>6 pm - Coming of Age</p>	<p>10:30 am - Morning Walk</p>	<p>All Day Tour</p> <p>11 am - Finance Committee</p>	<p>10:30 am - Bag It</p>	<p>12 pm - Vicarious Traveler</p> <p>1:30 pm - CLIRsights</p>
<p>10 am - Spanish Class</p> <p>11:30 am - Play Reading</p> <p>1 pm - Current Affairs</p> <p>6 pm - Coming of Age</p>	<p>1 pm - Ancient Egypt</p>		<p>10 am - Memoir Class</p> <p>1 pm - Bridge</p> <p>2 pm - Art on the Go</p> <p>6 pm - Dining & Drama</p>	<p>1 pm - Council Meeting</p>
<p>1 pm - Current Affairs</p> <p>6 pm - Coming of Age</p>	<p>Ashland Trip</p> <p>11 am - Book Discussion</p> <p>1 pm - Movie Club</p>	<p>Ashland Trip</p>	<p>Ashland Trip</p>	<p>Ashland Trip</p>
<p>1 pm - Current Affairs</p>				

Current Activities, cont'd from P-2

TOUR: A DAY OF WINE AND GARDENS

With some Thai in Between

Wednesday, October 12, Bus leaves at 9:00am

Marianne McCall

Barbara Farrenkopf

Our charter bus leaves 50 First Street promptly at 9:00am and heads to Bylington Winery in scenic Los Gatos for a winery tour and tasting. Then there will be a Thai Lunch at the Mint Leaf Restaurant, followed by a docent-led tour of the famous Hakone Gardens. Unfortunately this tour is limited to 25, so sign up and pay ASAP. **Cost:** \$60

There is a wait-list for this Tour.

VICARIOUS TRAVELER – Birgit Chase Olympic Peninsula and Mount Rainier

Friday, October 14, noon

Nick Maffei

A year ago Birgit traveled with Orinda Hiking Club in to explore Olympic National Park and Mount Rainer on foot. She will lead our members on a vicarious version of her hike.

Olympic National Park has wildflower-carpeted alpine zones, the famous Hoh rainforest, and the best wilderness beach and headland hiking in the United States. We sampled all three in seven days of hiking.

After leaving the Olympic Peninsula we traveled to Mt. Rainer for four more days of hiking where we experienced mountain vistas and wildflower covered alpine zone meadows.

At the end of the trip we spent a day in Tacoma visiting the Museum of Glass which has some open air glass pieces outside the museum by Dale Chihuly.

NOTES TO CLIR MEMBERS FROM CLIR MEMBERS

Tania Yates tells us Dr. Bob Brier, lecturer of our Egypt class, is hosting a tour. Called *Egypt and its Riches*, the dates are Nov. 5-19. There is far more information at the Teaching Company website:

thegreatcourses.com .

Jean Port and Tania Yates have three tickets to the San Francisco Symphony, Oct. 27, 2:00pm. They are excellent orchestra seats at \$40 each.

Please call Tania Yates or Jean Port.

Birgit Chase has a new e-mail address

Class Updates, continued from P-2

Kata Exercise class

This class has been permanently cancelled.

Coming Attractions

OPTIMIZING BRAIN FITNESS

Starts: Wednesday, November 2, 10:30am;

Then: Nov. 18 & 30, Dec. 7,21, Jan. 4

Robby Kiley

Learn how you can increase the power of your brain through your own effort.

This twelve lecture Teaching Company Course teaches us about the brain's ability to change in response to experience. This is referred to as plasticity and is the key to understanding the brain's development.



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.

We'll view two lectures each class and conclude with a half hour discussion.

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 has brought together ninety 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 highly trained docent will give a comprehensive and illustrated tour in preparation for your visit to the exhibit.

This is designed to enhance your enjoyment when you visit the exhibit. It will be in San Francisco, October 22 through January 22.

Cost: \$5.00. Please sign up and pay by check.





l/r Tania Yates, Kathryn Ringgold, Gail Schlueck, Jean Port, Evelyn Forsman, Stefanie Steinberg, Marianne McCall, Patricia O'Connor, Nancy Zinn, Bill Zinn, Barbara Styles, Jane Galvin, Marina Shoupe, David Styles*, Jane Standing*, Sarah Standing*, Carlyn Halde, Enid Leff. (*CLIR Guests)*

CLIR GOES TO SHAKESPEARE SANTA CRUZ — Story by Kathryn Ringgold, Photo by Alice Steele

In August, twenty-one members and guests of CLIR travelled to the beautiful campus of UC Santa Cruz for the 30th Anniversary season of the Shakespeare Festival. We enjoyed three plays. The first was a quite controversial production of *Comedy of Errors* performed Friday evening inside at Theater Arts *Mainstage*. Saturday afternoon sent us outside to a delightful production of Dumas' *Three Musketeers*, a stage version originally commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. It was performed in the Glen, a beautiful natural theater set among majestic new and old growth Redwood trees during balmy weather. The final play, *King Henry IV, Part One* was Sunday evening, again in the beautiful Glen and gained our unanimous enthusiasm.

Each production was followed the next morning by a stimulating discussion led by Patricia O'Connor whose experience and knowledge of the theater is a great contribution to our appreciation of the Festival.

The group stayed in the attractive student apartments and had their meals with the students. Many thanks to Enid Leff, Patricia O'Connor and Jean Port for a thoroughly delightful weekend. I look forward to attending Shakespeare Santa Cruz next year.

All for one and one for all!

CLIR Walks at Lake Elizabeth—Fremont Central Park

Story by Richard Hewetson, Photo by Barbara Farrenkopf



Mid-day, August 6, a group of happy but somewhat tired CLIRites gathered for a healthful lunch at the *Sweet Tomato* in Fremont. We had just completed a walk led by Joy Bryant around beautiful Lake Elizabeth in Fremont's Central Park. Many of us folk from The City had never known that this wonderful park exists. It is well equipped for children's play, picnics, sailboating and even has a water park. Thanks, Joy, for introducing us to this gem.

From Left: Tanya Yates, Brenda Greene, Robby Kiley, 1/2head is Bill Farrenkopf, Joy Bryant (who lead the walk), 1/2head is Dick Hewetson, Pat O'Connor, Nancy Zinn, Richard Magary, 1/4 head is Bill Zinn and Birgit Chase.

SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY BUMP FREE— ON LINE

By John Lavelle

Our name stands for continued learning and I know a lot of us are interested in more classes—more university classes.

Unlimited free classes are available now on the Internet.

Start exploring these classes through some of the websites mentioned in this article. For example,

Open Culture lists many courses ranging from the Humanities to the Sciences and more. It is located at : openculture.com/freeonlinecourses

YouTube is another good one.

Some popular ones are listed there, and you can search for other categories that interest you.

youtube.com/education

Both of these sites contain classes from the top universities like Stanford, Berkeley, the Ivy League and even International Universities like Oxford and Cambridge and more.

Then, there is the **iTunes U** website from Apple. I know we have many Apple lovers among us, but even we IBM/PC users can get some great courses here. If you already have iTunes installed on your computer, just click on **iTunes U** at the top of the page to access them. This website is particularly strong on courses from universities.

If you do not have iTunes on your computer, you may download it at their website at

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

Questions or comments? Contact John Lavelle .

If enough people are interested in a topic, perhaps we could have a class at CLIR where we watch the video and then have discussions. I would be glad to help organize this if anyone is interested.



Member OUR mystery MYSTERY member CLIR MEMBER

Who was the naïf traveler in the September Voice who went to kindergarten with Barney Frank? None other than our Sid Rosenberg!

Now for this month's mystery member. Who is this intrepid daredevil?

Back in the '50s, one of our members managed to drive three laps of the Watkins Glen Racecourse under racing conditions. Starting in pole position, she drove an XK120 Jaguar, lent to her for the occasion. She and the car survived the race. One of the duo never raced (officially) again.



If you would like to be a Mystery Member, send an anecdote from your earlier or present life and/or a picture .

TALK ABOUT CLIR!

Word of Mouth is, perhaps, CLIR's best member recruiting tool and you are the best person to provide the word. Tell your friends and family what you most enjoy about CLIR, its Classes, Activities, Tours, Special Audiences, or our popular General Meeting and Social Hour. If they enjoy learning with fun and interesting people, invite them to attend Vicarious Traveler or CLIRsights.

Our website offers video samples of classes as well as notice of events coming up in the next month. Non-members can also download the latest *Voice* and membership invitation forms from the website. If your friends or family members are online encourage them to check us out at clirsf.org. They're welcome to email us at office@clirsf.org or call us at 543-3965 for a membership information packet. You may pick up a few business cards or brochures, for sharing, from CLIR's clubroom any time.

CLIR, the home of unpretentious conviviality!

COMING OF AGE @ CLIR

Explore Your Future

Coming of Age has been approved to use CLIR space for one of its classes.

The class is called *Explore your Future* and it will be held four consecutive Monday evenings, 6:00—8:00pm, beginning October 3. If you're interested in learning more, the website is: **comingofage.org/bayarea/explore-your-future** or call 888 308-1767.

Coming of Age: Bay Area, launched in 2010, seeks to capture and utilize the talent, passion and skills of individuals 50+ with programs that benefit the entire community.

CLIRsights—SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

In September, Dr. Peter Joseph discussed *The Climate Crisis/ Reality vs Denial*.



Dr. Joseph presented compelling scientific evidence to us in this talk to demonstrate why most scientists say that climate change is happening and that we can do things to slow, or even reverse the warming of our earth. He and Rachel Guinness urged us to join the Citizens Climate Lobby to urge Congress

to pass carbon fee legislation.

Do you want to help? Here are some ways to get started:

Explore ***citizensclimatelobby.org***,
Join the Million Letter march at ***Millionlettermarch.org***,
Lobby your congressperson.

**CLIRsights
Vincenza Scarpaci, Author
October 14,
1:30pm**



The Journey of the Italians in America is the title of this book by Vincenza Scarpaci.

Weaving the thread of the American fabric of life involves the immigration of many people with different cultures. Meet Vincenza Scarpaci and relive the fascinating stories she tells of the Italian families in this strange, new country.

The author creates a new form of learning history by telling stories from family to family. By sharing family photographs, she reveals the influence of Italian Americans via sublime sculptures adorning public buildings to humble neighborhood restaurants.

These stories trace the travels of Italians in America and remind us of the parallel lives of every ethnic group in America.

Candidates for Nominating Committee

Each year you are asked to propose members best qualified to serve on the Nominating Committee. This important seven-member group acts as a "Search Committee" for CLIR Council candidates. Their job is to research and propose a slate of candidates for each office and Council seat. Please clip this form or make a list of up to seven CLIR members you consider qualified to serve on the Nominating Committee and return it to the CLIR Office by December 1, 2011.

CLIR COMMITTEES—OCTOBER 2011

As is customary in the month of October, CLIR publishes a list of its committees and their chairs. If you would like to join one or more of these committees, please contact the chair, directly. Several committees do not presently have chairs. If you would like to volunteer for such a post, please contact our president, Robby Kiley.

Annual Luncheon—Vicki Bell
Annual Picnic—Vacant
Art-on-the-Go—Fran Hasher
Asilomar—Vacant
Caring Committee—Ruth Basin
CLIR Honors—George Lucas
CLIRsights—Enid Leff
Curriculum—Tom Rothgiesser
Finance—Richard Magary
Hospitality—George Lucas
Marketing Outreach—Pat Tibbs

Membership—Richard Hewetson
Office Services Task Force—Pat Tibbs
Planning—Bonnie Martz
Shakespeare Santa Cruz—Enid Leff
Special Audiences—Phyllis Spandorf
Tours—Tom Rothgiesser
Vicarious Travelers—Nick Maffei
Voice—Alice Steele
Walks—Bill Zinn
Website—Pat Tibbs

Voice Notes

We welcome several new contributors to the pages of the Voice this month.

Kathryn Ringgold wrote her first story, a fine article telling of CLIR's adventures at the Shakespeare Festival while Barbara Farrenkopf contributed a sunshiny picture

of members who went walking in Fremont. John Lavelle offers his first article with this issue, and we know it will not be his last.

These contributors join our regulars, some of whom are Robby Kiley, Pat Tibbs, Stephanie Steinberg and Sonnie Willis. Not to mention all those who are so faithful about sending in their Class and Activities notices every month.

CENTER FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
50 FIRST STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105

Telephone: (415) 543-3965
E-mail: office@clirsf.org
Website: www.clirsf.org

Office Hours
10:00am to 2:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Council:
President: Robby (Robertamarie) Kiley
First Vice President: Gail Schlueck
Second Vice President: Pat Tibbs
Secretary: Alice Steele
Treasurer: Annette Berger

Members at Large:
Barbara Farrenkopf
Joan Gorrell
Sol Silver
Evelyn Forsman
Kathryn Ringgold
Jean Wilcox

Voice: Editorial Staff:

John Lavelle and Alice Steele: SFALice@aol.com

Distribution Staff:

Enne Braun, Evelyn Forsman, Ros Goldstein, Ruth Basin, Phyllis Spandorf

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE
October 14, 2011

October 2011 Issue