

LLI PROGRAM/CURRICULUM IDEAS 1  
May, 2012

THE ATOMIC CHRONICLES  
Lifetime Learning Institute, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale

This four-part course will cover:

**Building the Bomb** – The how, where and when the atomic bomb was built.

**Testing the Bomb** – The story of Operation Trinity – the how and why the bombs were tested before their military use.

**Delivering the Bomb** – Explaining how the bombs were targeted, delivered and the results of each bomb blast.

**Operation Crossroads** – After the war, the U.S conducted the *Bikini Atomic Bomb Tests* to learn more about blast and radiation effects and how they might be countered.

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GREAT DECISIONS  
Lifelong Learning of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Four vital issues affecting these turbulent times. Topics included:

**Middle East Realignment** – The popular revolts and upheaval of the Arab Spring have radically changed the face of the Middle East. What lies ahead for the Middle East’s transition to democracy? What are the prospects for the governments that have held out in this new order? With many longtime U.S. allies ousted, how will the U.S. recalibrate its relations with the new regimes?

**Promoting Democracy** – The U.S. has a history of advancing and supporting democracy around the world. What place does democracy promotion have in U.S. foreign policy today? With a choice of tools ranging from economic aid to military force, what are the appropriate yet effective methods that the U.S. should use to promote democracy?

**Mexico** – Mexico’s border with Central America, as well as the border it shares with the U.S. has been a pathway for people, goods, crime, and contraband in both directions. How can Mexico address these trans-border challenges? What is the future of Mexico’s relations with its northern and southern neighbors? How will Mexico’s foreign relations affect its domestic politics?

**Cybersecurity** – The securitization of cyberspace has caused a sea change for both governments and the private sector as they are faced with new threats, new battlegrounds, and new opportunities. With challenges such as international cybercrime and authoritarian control of networks, how will the U.S. and democratic allies approach this cyber frontier, and how are U.S. strategic interests affected?

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## **TITANS OF THE GILDED AGE: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL** **Adventures in Learning, Colby-Sawyer College, New Hampshire**

After the Civil War, decades of rapid economic expansion transformed America from a society rooted in the soil to the world's leading industrial nation, enabling a select few to amass unimaginable fortunes. Critics believed the tycoons had become super-rich by cheating, and vilified them as "robber barons." Supporters credited them with funding libraries, museums, colleges and other worthy institutions and charities. Either way, these fascinating individuals remain household names to this day, the personification of an era dubbed "gilded" rather than "golden" because the riches were so thinly distributed. Besides exploring how these magnates made and spent their fortunes, this lecture series will scrutinize their personalities and lifestyles and will examine what motivated and drove them to such enormous riches. The following men will be studied:

**John Jacob Astor: Fur Trader and Land Speculator** – He set a model for other entrepreneurs to follow by monopolizing the burgeoning fur trade, and later enlarging his fortune with canny land investments in Manhattan and elsewhere.

**Cornelius Vanderbilt: Transport Magnate** – This remarkable early entrepreneur, and some of his far less successful descendants, will be the topics of this lecture.

**Andrew Carnegie: Steel Tycoon** – A prime mover in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century expansion of the American steel industry.

**J. Piermont Morgan: Financial Mogul** – The dominant American financier of his time, this cigar-smoking mogul is part of American legend.

**John D. Rockefeller, Sr.: Oil Titan** – The wealthiest American ever, his philanthropic endeavors are undisputed.

**Andrew W. Mellon: Robber Baron or Benefactor and Visionary?** – Building on his father's banking interests, Andrew Mellon became enormously wealthy by creating successful banking conglomerates and financing companies that became giant industrial enterprises.

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### **ART AND MUSIC SPRING 2012** **Learning in Retirement Association, University of Massachusetts, Lowell**

This spring, the LIRA program is offering a wide range of art and music experiences for their members. Some of them are:

**Gore Place** – A tour of Gore Place, the Federal Period historic house and estate of Massachusetts Governor, Christopher Gore, which includes a small farm. The elegantly furnished mansion has been called: "The Monticello of the North," and architectural historians consider it to be the most significant Federal mansion in New England.

**Instruments of the Orchestra: Percussion** – An exploration of the percussion section of the orchestra. Some general information will be presented and that will be followed by UMass Lowell students demonstrating whatever percussion instruments are practical to bring.

**Worcester Art Museum** – A visit to this museum whose collection includes Roman Floor Mosaics, European Masters, Photographs, and Contemporary Art.

**Davis Art Museum: Wellesley College** – A tour of the fascinating new Radcliffe Bailey installation and other exhibits.

**MIT Museum** – A tour of the List Visual Arts Center’s public arts collection.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal** - With conductor Bernard Haitink and guest pianist Till Fellner, members will enjoy a Debussy program.

**The Modernists** – A UMass Lowell Professor of History of Art will give a lecture on the Modernists, Charles Sheeler and others.

**The American Impressionists** – From France, Impressionism spread to almost every country in the world. The United States was especially receptive to it. Participants will explore the similarities and differences in the two art movements and learn about the artists in France who brought Impressionism to the U.S.

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**DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES**  
**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**

The OLLI Distinguished Lecture Series consists of ten lectures, once per month from September through May. The speakers are well-informed experts from town and gown who share their specialized knowledge in an engaging manner. The lectures are held on Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 and cost \$45 for the series or \$10/day pass. Topics covered in final five months of the year include:

- Monuments of Its Own Magnificence: The Poetry of Aging
- Michigan Athletics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Is the Future of the Student Athlete?
- The Ins and Outs of Insider Trading: What It Is, Consequences, and Why You Want to Avoid It
- New Perspectives on History and Memory of the Third Reich
- Recent Developments in the Arab World: Causes, Consequences and Broader Implications

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**BROWN BAG LUNCHES**  
**Lifelong Learning Institute, James Madison University, Virginia**

Brown Bag Lunches are held on the first and third Tuesdays, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and are open to the public as a way to get to know LLI. There is no registration required, nor any fee. Topics for the winter/spring semester included:

- Protect Yourself: Older Adult Safety
- Introduction to Sweeny Todd
- Virginia Master Gardener Program
- Treasures from the Attic
- Arboretum Tour
- Virginia Master Naturalist Program
- Growing Grapes and Creating Wine
- Preview of Valley Bach Festival 2012