



ALRI Newsletter

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

Connecting....
People, Community,
and Knowledge

Spring 2005
Volume 2, Issue 2

. . . NEWS A L E R T . . .

- Plan to attend the ALRI Members' Annual Meeting on June 3 at the Fairlington Community Center. It is important that we have a quorum for election of our Board of Directors. So, if you absolutely cannot attend, please fill out and return your absentee ballot which was mailed to you in mid-May.
- Fall classes commence on September 26. The Academic Programs Committee, chaired by Connie McAdam, plans to offer about the same number of courses. Most of the more popular courses will be repeated, plus there should be about eight new ones. Put September 9 on your schedule to attend the ALRI "Meet Your Instructor Open House."
- The future is now! On-line payment processing will be available to ALRI members on our website beginning this summer. See article on page 4.
- Due to administrative problems, ALRI has ceased issuing GMU ID cards to members. Last Fall, the university began using a new software system for its human resources, finances, and other management functions. ALRI's affiliation status didn't seem to fall into any of the student-staff-faculty-contractor categories and were routinely deleted. There also continue to be concerns about the security of requested Social Security information. We're working with GMU administration to resolve the problem.

ALRI Members'

Annual Meeting

June 3, 9am to noon

**Multi-purpose room
of the
Fairlington
Community Center
(703-228-6588)**

3308 S. Stafford Street

Join your fellow members in our annual gathering to conduct business, elect officers and socialize over light snacks and beverages in the Fairlington neighborhood, located between Quaker Lane and I-395 in Arlington.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Meet the Author Series

May 18, 3:00 p.m., Arl. Central Library
Robert Frost: An Adventure in Poetry, 1900-1918, by Lesley Lee Francis

Lesley Lee Francis, granddaughter of Robert Frost, brings to life the Frost family's early years prior to international recognition. Francis shows how the genius of Frost was enriched by his interactions with his children.

Other Special Events

July 13, Tour of National Building Museum

September 21, Tour of Octagon Building

We will keep you posted on the following upcoming events:

John Paul Cultural Center Tour
American Indian Pow Wow
National Airport Tour
Sackler Museum Tour

*For the latest news,
call ALRI at 703-228-2144
and select the Special Events line.*

Good Times at Volunteer Brunch

ALRI invited 184 member volunteers and instructors to a brunch on May 7 in the NRECA building in Ballston. John Sprott, President, thanked all those gathered for their work throughout the year. Class aides, instructors, and committee members mingled and exchanged views as they noshed and applauded the door prizes. Plaudits to Sharon Bisdee and Jeanne Sprott who made all the arrangements from invitations through food and decorations, even providing setup and cleanup!

President's Corner

Spring is the perfect time to tell you about ALRI's exciting growth. Over the last year, ALRI has grown to approximately 500 members, offering over 60 courses annually. The special events program has also grown exponentially from just a few sporadic events per term to nearly two special events each month.

As the spring term ends, the Academic Programs Committee is busy developing courses for the fall term. I am told there are to be more new courses for you to choose from and I, for one, can't wait to see the offerings. You will see listed elsewhere that a number of special events are scheduled or in process for the summer and next fall with work on still more events planned. This work is being done for you by the special events volunteers.

Organizationally, ALRI is developing an infrastructure that better serves the Board and volunteers as they strive to meet the interests of members. By the fall, ALRI will have an online registration and membership payment system in place. This, along with our new interactive website, will allow us to serve you better by making it easier for you to keep your membership up-to-date and register for the course(s) of your choice. There is still much to do. Among other things it is increasingly clear that ALRI needs permanent space for an adequate office and meeting room. Any ideas?

Five new clubs were organized in March and have been meeting and making their plans for the future. If you are interested in joining one or more of them, you will be welcome.

These are but a few of the activities your fellow members have been engaged in since our January Newsletter. Finally, it has been a real pleasure meeting the many new ALRI members during the "New Member Get-Togethers." Your enthusiasm for ALRI is energizing!

The ultimate strength of ALRI lies in the contributions of its volunteers. If you care for the Institute and want to help ensure its future, plan to share some of your time and expertise. You'll be proud of what you help create!

John Sprott

A New Slant on Independence Day

by Bob Gibson, Vice President and Registrar

The Academic Programs Committee is hard at work developing fall 2005 courses and expects to finalize the ALRI offerings by the third week in June. Then begins the arduous task of assembling the catalog. A first step, scheduled to begin on the fourth of July, is to select the sites, days, and times for all the offerings. This may sound like a simple task, but is, in reality, quite a juggling act.

As you know, ALRI is currently offering courses at five locations: the Clarendon Education Center, George Mason University's Arlington Campus, the Lyon Village Community House, the Madison Community Center and Marymount University – Ballston. These are in addition to special courses such as those at the Potomac Institute. Also under consideration is a new site in south Arlington. A small group of volunteers will pour over the possibilities for a few days to lay out the program, taking into account a variety of factors. In addition to maximizing travel convenience for members these include minimizing overlap of courses with similar subject interest, instructor time constraints, audio visual requirements, conditions imposed by the various site managers, and the geographic dispersion of the membership.

Any comments you may wish to make regarding facilities to help with this process are most welcome. They should be directed to ALRI.Registrar@comcast.net.

From the Administrator's Desk

Our Office Management volunteer corps has been augmented recently with the addition of Hannelore Banister and Deb Pinkerton. We now have the CEC cubicle staffed four afternoons each week, plus I have a File Fairy to help me in the GMU office. Many thanks to Carolyn Gosling, Ann Kelleran, and Jack Royer, who have been with me since September.

As a reminder, I am in our GMU office and our cubicle at the Clarendon Education Center is staffed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 3 pm. We check the messages that are left on the phone and emails sent in to the ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org each day, and we respond to your inquiries and requests as quickly as possible.

Thanks for your patience in working with and supporting this amazing and inspiring organization.

Marjorie Varner

Many thanks to the Bulk Mail team headed by Ted Leber for getting this newsletter out to the membership in a very brief timeframe.

ALRI Newsletter
a quarterly publication of the
Arlington Learning
in Retirement Institute

ALRI
2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306
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E-mail: alri@arlingtonlri.org
New Web site, www.ArlingtonLRI.org

**We welcome your articles, questions
and suggestions**

Editors:
Doug First, Barbara Sakamoto
and Marjorie Varner

Welcome New Members

Virginia H Andreani	William S McLeod
Harold Andrews	Ray Meyer
Carolyn W Baird	Judith A Miller
Mary Bane	Linda Morse
Bette L Barton	Silas O Nunn
Anna L Benson	Roland Oelberg
Stephen C Bentley	Yasu Yori Okuda
Carol Biondolillo	Ragnar Overby
Phyllis E Buell	George S Pick
Francoise M Byrne	Deborah Pinkerton
Susan Carpenter	Mary S Placke
Francoise Chrystmos	Denise Proulx
Suzanne D Crowther	Mary L Regan
Claire M Emory	Anne Rensberger
Harriett Evenson	Bonnie L Rexrode
Jeff Farr	Hans K Salzinger
Wesley Ann Godard	Christina H Schoux
Louise M Gold	Judith A Sever
Jamie A Harding	Larry Shindelman
Anne Hartzenbusch	Michele C Shomaker
Marjorie P Hobart	Christel Smith
George S Hobart	E Michael Southwick
Christine Jacobsen	Susan Southwick
Charles Jacobsen	Adrienne M Stefan
Lucy H Johnson	Les Stoessl
Frederick J Jones	Paul M Stolpman
Joan A Kaufman	William F Sullivan
Warren F Kaufman	William R Todd
Janet L Kline	Daniele MT Todd
Myron M Kline	Rebecca Weinstein
Michael Korff	Deborah West
Ann K Korky	Bayla F White
Vera A Libeau	Thomas J Winans
Elaine Lomax	Nancy Wong
Michiyo Masaïke	Rosemary Ziskind
Joseph R McDermott	Rochelle Zohn

Annual Meeting Business

The ALRI Annual Meeting of Members to be held on June 3 will include an innovation. The Board has implemented a by-law amendment approved at the 2004 Annual Meeting by approving the use of an absentee ballot for those members who are unable to attend the June 3 meeting. The Board encourages each ALRI member to attend, participate and share their time with other members on June 3, but recognizes the busy life that we all lead. An absentee ballot will permit a wider participation by all ALRI members in the voting issues that are expected to come before our Annual Meeting. Please look for the Notice of Annual Meeting and accompanying documents scheduled for transmittal to members in mid-May.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Membership Committee has been busy since the last Newsletter with a variety of activities:

—The February “Meet the Instructor” Open House was an interesting and useful meeting with approximately 150 members attending and presentations from 16 instructors. The coffee proved to be a challenge, arriving almost an hour late, but we learned from the experience that a break an hour into the meeting is welcomed.

—The March 4 meeting to establish clubs was a great success – see separate article on Clubs. Kudos to our Club Liaison Officers – Bernice Foster and Gary Lee for organizing the event.

—The Recruitment/Membership Services Subgroups have been combined and will be focusing on next steps in our recruitment efforts, as well as possible expansion of services offered to the membership.

—The Committee Co-Chairs, along with Nancy Palmerino, head of our Hospitality Team, spent a lot of time during the past three months canvassing the community for locations to hold some of our meetings – large and small. If you know of any sites that might be appropriate for ALRI gatherings - hopefully free of charge – just let us know.

—We postponed our Newcomers’ Get Together to April 15 because of the February Open House and the start of

classes. It was a fun afternoon of punch, cake and good conversation. We continue to recruit interesting and enthusiastic new members.

—The Co-Chairs and ALRI President John Sprott attended the Harambee Ceremony held at the Thomas Jefferson Center on February 12 at which Arlington County recognized six African Americans who were nominated as community role models. It was a very nice ceremony. ALRI cosponsored and provided a fruit tray for the occasion as well as gift bags with ALRI mugs/pen/catalogues to the awardees. In addition, the Arlington Education Center displayed ALRI brochures and other ALRI information at their table at the Heritage Festival the following weekend at the Drew Center.

—The Co-Chairs also gave a short presentation at the monthly meeting of members of the St. Anne’s Guild of St. Andrews Episcopal Church organized by our own Carol Kiranbay. The meeting was held at Goodwin House with about 15 attendees. It was a fun group and we enjoyed sharing ALRI information with them. Please contact us if you know of an organization or community group or religious institution that would welcome a short presentation on ALRI.

Sharon Bisdee and Jeannie Sprott

New Member Socials
will be held throughout the year

NEWCOMER COMMENT:

Newcomer Ruth Page wrote in following the April 15 punch and cake gathering: “I shall take this opportunity to thank you for the nice event. Such a bright, inquiring world you’ve opened for me.”

On-line Payments for ALRI

The ALRI Board has approved changes to our website that will allow members to make secure payments on-line for course and membership fees. The on-line system will become operational this summer and will be in effect for the next two terms. The Board will then review our experience with the system and decide whether or not it should be continued.

Under the system, a member will be able to register for courses on-line at the ALRI website (www.ArlingtonLRI.org) and make payments using his/her credit card number. The actual processing of card numbers will be done by VeriSign, using state-of-the-art technology to protect the confidentiality of the information. VeriSign is an industry leader in credit card processing and secure on-line payment technology.

In addition to registering for courses, members will be able to renew annual memberships on-line and make payment by credit card. New members will also be able to join and submit payment on-line. Eventually, we hope to expand the system to include payments for special events.

The on-line payment system will be strictly voluntary. Those who prefer to use paper forms to pay by check or credit card will be able to do so. On-line payment, however, offers several advantages:

- **Quicker response.** A member will know immediately that he/she has been admitted into a course;
- **Easier service.** There will be no forms to fill out or postage costs;
- **Better security.** ALRI will never see a member's card number with on-line payment. While paper forms with card numbers are strictly secured by ALRI, there is always a risk that a letter with card information can be lost or stolen in the mail.

The development of an on-line system is being coordinated by Ken McLean, chair of the Information Technology Support Committee. Ken is looking for help in developing the system and especially from members with experience in computer programming, including familiarity with Visual Basic.Net, ASP.Net, HTML, SQL Server, and Microsoft Access. If you have experience in any of these fields and would like to help, please send Ken an e-mail at mcleank@comcast.net.

When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.

~~~Japanese proverb~~~

## May Special Event Report *Birding Trip a Treat*

On a beautiful April 27<sup>th</sup> morning, nine ALRI members participated in a Spring Birding field trip at Fort C.F. Smith Park arranged by the ALRI Special Events team. Val Kitchens, former President of the Northern Virginia Bird Club (NVBC), and three other NVBC members acted as field trip leaders to point out the birds to the ALRI attendees. The group was treated to close up views of many birds at the circulating stream created by the NVBC, including a rather rare sighting of an Orchard Oriole. Other noteworthy sightings were several kingbirds, purple martins and rough-winged swallows. Those who waited with Val for the final tally of birds were treated to several additional species including a flock of cedar waxwings. The final count was forty species for the morning, a respectable number considering the late spring we are having.

*Contributed by Andrea Vojtko*

## VP's Potpourri

George Mason University's plans to redo the third floor of the original building have been moved from summer '05 to summer '06. . . The May/June issue of the AARP magazine (p.56) has an excellent article on how to check on a pre-owned car (AKA "used") in order to assess its safety and reliability. . . According to JAMA, eating just an ounce of dark chocolate will protect your heart. The cocoa in chocolate is rich in *procyanidins*. . . People who view aging as a positive experience live an average of 7.5 years longer than those who view it negatively was the finding of a study conducted by the Yale School of Public Health.

*Contributed by Doug First, Vice President*

### Interested in a loosely structured, open-ended, flexible, and fun exploration of things Irish?

We want to start a club of members who enjoy Ireland and its people and would like to share time discussing Irish

- history
- language
- literature
- music
- current events...
- etc!

Activities could include film screenings, play readings, trips, speakers, local events, pub visits and discussions - but are not limited to any of the above. If you're interested, please email Adrienne Stefan ([Bismarckdg@aol.com](mailto:Bismarckdg@aol.com)). If there is enough of a response, we propose holding an exploratory meeting and will be in touch to establish a convenient time and venue for that first meeting.

*Adrienne Stefan and Ann Korky*

# Membership Statistics

Curious about ALRI's growth? Here are the raw facts! Have some ideas on how we can sustain our current strong membership? Join the Membership Committee today!

|                               | Fall 2003 | Spring 2004 | Fall 2004 | Spring 2005 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>Paid Members</b>           | 310       | 461         | 490       | 507         |
| <b>Paid Enrollments</b>       | 355       | 436         | 442       | 404         |
| <b>Enrollments per Member</b> | 1.15      | 0.95        | 0.90      | 0.80        |

## INQUIRING MINDS

**Q.** How do I make a suggestion for an ALRI class?

**A.** The Academic Programs Committee plans the classes. Send your suggestions to Constance McAdam, Chair, Academic Programs Committee at ALRI, 2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306, Arlington, VA 22201, or e-mail: ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.

## Academic Freedom Policy

As a learning organization, ALRI subscribes to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) principle of Academic Freedom: "All views should be respected regardless of their conformance with generally, or currently, accepted views."

## Voices from the Classes News

Cut here



Don't delay! Deadline for the ALRI 2005 Summer Newsletter is July 1. Drop us a line at ALRI Voices From the Classes column in the newsletter. Tell us about your ALRI Class. We look forward to hearing from you.

NAME:

Send to Voices from the Classes, c/o ALRI Newsletter, 2801 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 306, Arl., VA 22201 or via e-mail ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.

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# **Annual Meeting**

## **on June 3**

### **Details inside!**

#### **Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute**

ALRI offers short college-level non-credit daytime courses, lectures, special events, and activities to help meet the continuing educational and social needs of any interested persons over fifty years of age. ALRI is supported, governed, and financed by its members. ALRI is a non-profit, equal opportunity organization without regard to gender, race, color, religion, national origin or disability.

***Affiliations:*** George Mason University, Arlington Public Schools Adult Education Division, Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs, Elderhostel Network