



# ALRI Newsletter

Connecting....  
People, Community,  
and Knowledge

Summer 2004  
Volume 1, Issue 5

## . . . News Alert . . .

- The fall catalog will be mailed to ALRI members the third week in August. It will list an exciting array of courses with many first-time offerings.
- Register early! Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Don't miss the opportunity of getting the courses you want. Many classes fill up quickly.
- Plan to attend the Fall Open House on September 10 at the GMU Arlington Campus beginning at 9:30 a.m. This great opportunity introduces the instructors and highlights Special Events.
- Classes begin the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Special Events . . .

***Nathan the Wise*** is a unique theater and discussion opportunity. Set in Jerusalem during the Third Crusade, the play presents three religions striving for peace in a time of war. Paul D'Andrea, Robinson Professor of Theater and English at George Mason University, will lead a discussion of the issues raised in the play and their relevance for today's world. The discussion will be held September 15, GMU-Arlington, 3401 Fairfax Dr., Room 257 from 10 a.m. until noon. (Free)

There are two ways of seeing the play before the discussion:

**Theater performance** at GMU's Theater of the First Amendment, GMU Concert Hall, September 10 and 11 at 8 p.m., September 12 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available at GMU-Fairfax campus box office (mention ALRI membership for a 15% discount). After August 2 (no discount) tickets can be purchased from GMU online [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) or 703-218-6500.

**Video showing** of the play September 13, GMU in Arlington, 3401 Fairfax Dr., Room 257 at 10 a.m. (Free) Additional information can be obtained through ALRI, 703-228-2144, Special Events or on the website, <http://arlingtonlri.gmu.edu>.

### ***Fall Lecture Series on American History and Culture***

Lectures will be held at the Arlington Central Library auditorium from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to this open lecture series.

- October 4:        **"Ready to Wear in the USA"**  
                      Howard Kurtz, Professor of Costume Design, GMU
- October 25:      **"The Great Collaboration: Washington and Hamilton"**  
                      Peter Henriques, Professor of History, Emeritus, GMU
- November 29:   **"The Life of Lew Wallace, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance Man"**  
                      Gail Stephens, Award Winning Civil War Researcher/Author

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/10     ALRI Open House
- 9/10-12 **Play: *Nathan the Wise***
- 9/13     Video of Play
- 9/15     Discussion of Play
- 10/4     Fall Classes Start

### **Fall Lecture Series Arlington Central Library**

- 10/4     "Ready to Wear USA"
- 10/25    "The Great Collaboration:  
Washington and Hamilton"
- 11/29    "The Life of Lew Wallace,  
19<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance  
Man"



### ***Rome in September!*** Come join us . . .

ALRI students will spend a week in Rome with instructor, Tom Wukitsch. Airfare and accommodations \$2077 per person. If interested, contact Sharon Schoumacher, 703-522-9014 or [sharon@earthwave.net](mailto:sharon@earthwave.net).

*This is not an ALRI sponsored trip. It is being organized independently by members of ALRI.*

## ALRI Welcomes New Administrator - Marjorie Varner

The mission of ALRI impressed me so much that I jumped at a chance to join the organization as its first employee. Hopefully I bring skills and enthusiasm to what is, honestly, a rather daunting task. ALRI has grown amazingly in its infancy. You are just starting your fourth term of courses and already have over 50 instructors offering 30 classes at seven locations! That in itself takes tremendous coordination and planning, an effort that I was able to join in after I started working for you in late May.

What should you know about me? I am a mother of two school-age children, rising

third and seventh graders, and have been married to a hardworking architect for over 18 years. I have been active in the Arlington Community since I moved here twenty years ago as a single professional working as a management information consultant with what was then a "Big 8" firm. I volunteered at my church, in my neighborhood, and in my civic association; I ran fundraising at my children's schools and coordinated swim meets at their pool; I "graduated" in the first class of the Citizen's Police Academy and contributed my writing abilities to the Citizen's Corps Council in the aftermath of 9/11.

Like many of you, I find fulfillment in my volunteer activities and realize that many good things would never happen if it weren't for those who give of their time so freely.

I look forward to seeing you at ALRI social functions, committee meetings, or in our office space Room 150K GMU, Arlington, VA.

I can be reached by e-mail: [administrator@arlingtonlri.org](mailto:administrator@arlingtonlri.org) or by phone at 703-228-2144.

## Meet the New ALRI Board Members

### ***Ken Mclean - Information Technology Committee Chair***

Ken spent many years working on Capital Hill, first as a staff director of a Senate Committee and then as the head of his own lobbying business. After "retiring" he launched a third career as a part-time instructor in Information Technology and now a fourth as the Chair of our Information Technology Committee. Ken says, "There is no rest for the wicked!"

### ***Henry C. Brown - Treasurer***

Henry's background and education are in the management of technical programs for the Federal Government. In his last "paying" job, he spent over 28 years with the consulting firm of Booz Allen & Hamilton, where he was a principal in charge of a group of 60 professionals supporting the Navy in radar, air traffic control, and display technology.

A native Washingtonian, Henry attended the old Western High School in Georgetown (now Duke Ellington School), Bucknell University and the University of Maryland. Passionate about traveling, Henry and his wife have backpacked around the United States and traveled extensively throughout the world.

Henry is a "fix it" kind of guy. He has worked on automobiles, remodeled 3 houses, built 2 houses, wired and plumbed 2 houses and installed radiant floor heat in his last one. He and Elaine are just finishing (if a house is ever finished) their new house in Ashton Heights, Arlington.

As the recently elected treasurer of ALRI, he sees his job as one of continuing the high financial standards of his predecessor and striving to make the budget and accounting job easier for those involved in the process.

**ALRI Newsletter**  
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**Arlington Learning  
in Retirement Institute**

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**Please send us your articles, questions  
or suggestions**

Public Relations Committee  
Ann Holmes, Chairperson  
[annholmes@aol.com](mailto:annholmes@aol.com)



## Inquiring Minds

### Is ALRI open only to Arlington residents?

No. ALRI membership is open to any interested person over fifty years of age in the Washington, DC area.

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*Inquiring minds will be a regular feature in the ALRI quarterly newsletter. Send your questions to Inquiring Minds: e-mail [alri@gmu.edu](mailto:alri@gmu.edu)*

## Data Entry Made Easier

**ALRI** maintains a database containing information about its members, the courses they take, and the fees they pay. This information must be constantly updated as new members join and register for courses. One of the goals of the new Information Technology Support Chair, Ken McLean, is to simplify the data entry process so that more volunteers can help out, especially during peak periods. In the past, data entry required much training and technical knowledge. Ken is revising the database to reduce the amount of typing while ensuring the data is valid and internally consistent. Much of the work done manually will be done by the computer.

Two ITS volunteers, Dela Ng and Margaret Susank, tested the new data entry procedures. They took the course registration forms submitted by members for the Spring semester and reentered the data in a temporary section of the database. A few bugs were discovered which Ken has worked out. Dela and Margaret concluded that the new system is at least twice as fast as the old one and less nerve-racking since much of the cross-checking is done by the computer rather than the volunteer. According to Dela, data entry is now fun--well, almost.

*Send Ken an e-mail at [mcleank@comcast.net](mailto:mcleank@comcast.net) if you would like to help keep the database up to date and expand its features to meet the growing needs of ALRI.*

## Welcome New ALRI Members

Ira Batt  
Carol Becker  
Diane Bender  
Bolivar Cobos  
Richard Donnelly  
Eleanor Draghi  
Catherine Gallivan  
Marcia Garfinkel  
Janis Johnson  
Nelson Kieff  
Charlotte Kraebel

Randall LeCocq  
Linda A. LeDuc  
Gary Lee  
Michael Lerner  
Natalie Nash  
David Rudgers  
Audrey Shuler  
Jean Sweeney  
Sandra Watson  
Barbara Williams

## Organization Committee

The Organization Committee completed phase 1 of its project to prepare written descriptions of the scope of ALRI Committees, responsibilities of Committee Chairs, and to come, written procedures for accomplishing Committee tasks. Our work is accomplished by volunteers to whom the Committee Chair is grateful: Marge Alia, Sharon Bisdee, Sharon Jourdan, and Jeanne Sprott. We have more to do and welcome additional volunteers to speed completion of our project.

*If you would like to help with this project, contact Jerry Greenwald: e-mail [gbg1305@towervillas.com](mailto:gbg1305@towervillas.com).*

## Coffee Socials

New member coffees will be held throughout the year

## ALRI Annual Membership Meeting

ALRI's second annual meeting was held June 4 at George Mason University in Arlington. John Sprott, Board President, welcomed those in attendance. He then introduced ALRI's first staff person and Administrator, Marjorie Varner.

Outgoing Board members, Matthew Adams, Judy Andrews, Tom Parker, Marjorie Mayer, and Bob Chatten were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to ALRI's progress. In addition, President Sprott expressed gratitude to Mike Morton, Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education Programs for Arlington Public Schools, for assistance provided by his office.

Two changes to Institute Bylaws were proposed by Organization Committee Chair, Jerry Greenwald. Article 3B would give authorization to the Board for absentee voting by members on agenda items and Article 4B would permit the Board's membership to increase from twelve to twenty. Both Articles were approved by ALRI members.

Nominating Committee Member, Thurlow Wilson, presented the new slate of officers and committee chairs for the upcoming year. Officer nominations included: John Sprott, President; Doug First, Vice-President; Bob Gibson, Vice-President; Lynda Adamson, Secretary; and Henry Brown, Treasurer. Committee Chair nominations included: Richard Barton, Academic Committee; Ann Holmes, Public Relations Committee; Ken McLean, Information Technology Committee; and Jerry Greenwald, Organization Committee. Nominations were approved by the membership.

Retiring Treasurer, Matthew Adams, reported that ALRI has become a 501 (c) (3) organization. This nonprofit status will permit contributions to the organization to be tax-deductible.

In his State of the Institute Summary, President Sprott reported that ALRI enrolled 470 members and offered 92 courses in its first 20 months.

Arlington Superintendent of Public Schools, Robert Smith, proposed that ALRI form one of the focus groups for Arlington Schools Strategic Plan and asked that ALRI members serve as a resource for the schools.

Academic Committee Chair, Richard Barton, distributed a tentative fall course list and discussed the 2004 Fall Term, which will begin October 4 and end December 12. A Fall Open House will be held September 10.

ALRI Members participated in break-out sessions to discuss: curriculum, future courses, potential instructors, instructor quality, promoting ALRI within the community, and a more effective program to welcome and integrate new members.

President Sprott and the entire group paid special tribute to ALRI faculty members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

*by Sharon Jourdan*

## ALRI Teachers and Students: A Mutual Appreciation

*ALRI is a volunteer organization, and its success results from those who serve. Bob Chatten, Outgoing Board Member and Academic Chair, provides insights on instructors and students.*

One of the most frequently heard comments from ALRI members is appreciation for the willingness of the often distinguished, always authoritative instructors to share their scholarship or experience free of charge. Implicit in those praises is a realization that no all-volunteer organization which provides community service could afford to pay its headliner people what their expertise would be worth and still offer those services at rates designed merely to cover administrative overhead.

Many of the retired instructors enjoy the opportunity to keep abreast in the fields in which they gained eminence. The academic committee, which recruits the faculty and organizes the curriculum, just as

often hears reciprocal praises from the instructors for ALRI's attentive, informed and animated students.

Anyone who has watched the catalog offerings grow from the Spring 2003 term of 17 to the more than 30 for Spring and Fall 2004, knows that the instructors come to ALRI from every direction and background.

The International Tour d'Horizon lecture series combined prominent retired professionals in foreign affairs with those who are currently active in the field. For example, former foreign correspondent, Victoria Butler, spoke this past Spring about the preparation of an illustrated book on Sudan which she and her husband, a former Ambassador

to Sudan, are writing in collaboration with a noted British photographer. Since that time, a humanitarian crisis in Sudan has gained urgent attention from the Secretary General of the U.N. and the U.S. Secretary of State. This fall, she will be able to report not only on the progress of the book but also on the state of the crisis. Among the newcomers to the Tour d'Horizon course will be Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba, and Kenneth Wesolik, a 30-year CIA veteran.

This fall take advantage of an exceptional opportunity to revisit and update one of ALRI's most popular and well attended courses.


*by Bob Chatten*

## **Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute Mission Statement**

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



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