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People, Community,  
and Knowledge

# ALRI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR ALRI?

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ALRI's newest 90 members – those who have joined since mid-September 2006 – are invited to the New Members' Social **Friday, May 11, 2-5 pm.**, in the **Monticello Room** of **The Jefferson**. The reception offers an opportunity for you to meet other members including those serving on the board and to learn more about ALRI and its activities. This will be ALRI's third social at The Jefferson. The first one was held in March 2006, the second in November 2006.

You'll find the list of ALRI's newest members on Page 4.

### ATTEND JUNE MEETING



All ALRI members are invited to ALRI's annual meeting **Friday, June 8, in Room 329, George Mason University**. Come for refreshments at 9a.m.; the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

New officers will be chosen at the meeting. An all-member mailing later in May will list the proposed slate of officers, provide further information on the meeting and election, and include a ballot. Those unable to attend may vote absentee.

President John Sprott will give a "state of ALRI" message, and treasurer Henry Brown will give the financial report. Board members will lead attendees in an exploration of topics

that will help ALRI as it develops programs to meet members' needs and expectations. There will be plenty of time to ask questions, meet the new and old board members, learn about future ALRI events and programs, and socialize.

### CELEBRATE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



ALRI will celebrate its fifth anniversary with an open house **September 29** (venue to be determined).

We have a very talented and interesting membership and would like to use the celebration as an opportunity to exhibit some of your art-

work and writings. Space may be limited but let us know if you are interested in sharing your creative works. We also hope to develop and act out some sketches spoofing ALRI and plan to have a roving interviewer with whom you can share your ALRI experiences, plus music, savory eats and more.

Arrangements are in the initial planning stages, and we can use a lot of help. Please contact Sharon Bisdee – [sbisdee@msn.com](mailto:sbisdee@msn.com) or Jeanne Sprott – [jrs4600@verizon.net](mailto:jrs4600@verizon.net) – by June 8 if you are interested in sharing your artwork and/or volunteering to work on the Fifth Anniversary Committee. It should be lots of fun!

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## President's Report

What a great spring! Once again the Academic Programs Committee has put together an outstanding spring program of courses. Special Events has continued its roll in scheduling excellent, highly attended lectures and tours. Hope you are enjoying one or more, as I am. ALRI is fortunate to have the many enthusiastic volunteers who work throughout the year in developing ALRI's quality programming. They are not alone, of course. There are many other invaluable volunteers carrying out the less obvious, but critical, tasks that make ALRI work. Thank you all!

On September 16 ALRI will be five years old, and plans are afoot for a celebration on September 29. One plan is to provide an opportunity for members to display their creativity through their art or hobbies. So get ready to show off your talents or just enjoy the wonderful abilities of your fellow members, while celebrating ALRI's birthday.

Make sure you remember the June 8 annual membership meeting .

—John Sprott

## 45 CLASS AIDES PLAY VITAL ROLES FOR ALRI COURSES

Three elements assure the success of each ALRI class: an academic committee to find and choose a variety of courses to appeal to the diverse interests of ALRI members; knowledgeable instructors to bring their subjects to life; and dedicated class aides to make sure that each class session runs smoothly.

Aides provide the interface between ALRI and the instructor, reproduce and distribute handouts, manage audiovisual equipment, and handle administrative tasks including class rosters and class evaluations, says Carolyn Gosling, chairman of the class aide committee.

ALRI thanks the 45 members who volunteered as class aides for the 28 spring semester courses, four of whom helped in two courses, as well as members of the class aide committee: Gosling and Cindy Hatcher. They appreciated the help of Fran Jeffrey in assembling the information packets provided to the aides at the orientation sessions and the ongoing support of ALRI's administrator, Marjorie Varner.

Class aides in spring 2007 included Theresa Healy and Arlene Kigin, "Wagner"; Anne Lange and Sharon Bisdee, "Filmmaking"; Zita Drillings and Mary Kay Spink, "20<sup>th</sup> Century Composers"; Fred Fagerstrom and Susan Post, "Cathedral and the City"; Leslie Erwin and Marjorie Griffin, "Estate Planning"; June Gal-

agher, "Cooking for Your Health"; Richard Donnelly and Win Greenwald, "Neuroscience"; Sammy Ng and Betty Saxer, "The Silk Road"; Joan Rineberg and Tema Halpern, "Rome and Hollywood"; Elaine McGovern and David Peacefull, "Arlington History"; Marcia Field, "World War II"; Mary Pendleton and Elizabeth Adams, "Gettysburg"; Donald Miller, "U.S. Constitution"; Charlotte Gauss and Susan Post, "Geopolitics of the Bible"; Connie Collins; "Revolution in Virginia";

*(Class Aides continued on page 3)*

### ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

#### Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

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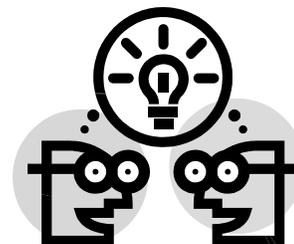
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## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE CULTIVATES COURSES IN MULTI-STEP PROCESS

Surely you have heard someone praise the quality of course offerings available through ALRI or wondered how the organization has built up so many courses on such a variety of interesting subjects, offered by such exciting teachers? Is there a flower bed of possibilities from which these blooms are culled?



The answer lies in the Academic Programs Committee. This group, co-chaired by Joan Reed and Bob Howe, meets every other week in April and weekly in May. Members run through a very organized process using a work sheet to move courses from an idea through a number of steps to the final actuality. As soon as the committee approves an idea, one member will follow it along and work to transform it into an actual course. Sometimes that is simply a matter of a phone call or two, usually local but sometimes far afield. An e-mail can be sent to a visiting GMU Fellow in Brussels with no guarantee of the result. Sometimes bringing a course into being involves negotiating the time, number of hours needed, or course content. In the end, a dreamed-of course may or may not become a reality.

Currently, the committee is working mostly on “new” courses. It will bring those along as far and fast as possible, finding teachers and honing content on the way. At a recent meeting, three courses for fall were ready to go: “Lorca and Modern Spain”; “Immigrants”; and a repeat of “Figures Can Lie.” That means volunteer instructors have agreed to hours and content; the three will be added to the next catalogue for students to choose in the fall.

Next, the committee will turn to recruiting courses previously offered, some of which, like Bob Weinberg’s elucidation of the Bill of Rights, have been taught once a year since ALRI’s inception five years ago. Some instructors have consistently offered new courses every term. For instance, Dr. Tom Connally has taught a number of different medically oriented courses over the years, and now leads 75 members through the difficult concepts of neuroscience. Tom Wukitsch has introduced very large classes of eager students to aspects of Rome from ancient times through the Renaissance, and last year branched out to Carthage and Roman North Africa.

Others have taught as their schedules permitted about timely and important topics, such as Jerusha Lamptey’s course, “The Religion of Islam” or Steve Dachi’s “Political Islam.”

For most terms, the work of the Academic Programs Committee results in about 30 offerings, some “new” and some “repeats,” a remarkable achievement for a voluntary organization and a lot of fun and enlightenment for us all. Take a bow, Academic Programs Committee!

—Win Greenwald

*(Class Aides continued from page 2)*

Donald Miller, “Bill of Rights”; Susan Roth and Marilyn Wilson, “Russia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”; Robert Howe, “Federal Reserve System”; Diane Marton and Fran Feiner, “Mexico and the U.S.”; Sharon Schoumacher and Anne Lange, “Literary Nonfiction”; Anita Malone and David Wittenberg, “Art in Shakespeare”; Roberta Deihl, “Bible as Literature”; Lila Sanger and Ann Wolfe, “Writing Your Life”; Geri Hirai and Dick Donnelly, “Naturalist Tour”; Ellen Harland and Fran Feiner, “Green Canary”; Althea Johnston and Molly Kirby, “National Public Radio”; Carol Cochran and Darlene Mickey, “How Arlington Works”; and Gary Lee and Joanne Gibson, “Great Thinkers on Ethics.”

# Welcome

ALRI welcomes the 90 new members who joined between September 18, 2006, and March 21, 2007. Current ALRI membership now stands at 606. The list of new members follows.

Barbara S. Adams  
 Andrew L. Austin  
 Sue W. Austin  
 Douglas Baker  
 Shrive Beck  
 Robert J. Bemben  
 Richard Berendzen  
 Joan C. Bertrand  
 Linda Breslau  
 Clare S. Brewster  
 Carol J. Bursik  
 Janet Burt  
 Donna J. Canode  
 Frank M. Carroll  
 Elizabeth A. Carter  
 Carmen E. Chapin  
 Mary S. Cottrell  
 Dolores M. Coutts  
 Mary P. Crosby  
 Ellen Dayton  
 Thomas F. Field  
 Margaret I. Fisher  
 Mary Anne Fitzgerald  
 Bette B. Gordon  
 Jane P. Guiliano  
 Judith S. Hadley  
 Lorelei Haig  
 Frank J. Halligan  
 Tema Halpern  
 Marolyn Hatch

Lynn Heaton  
 Glenda E. Hottle  
 Cythia Ingersoll  
 Susan S. Jamison  
 Raymond Keith  
 William M. Kincaide  
 Gail G. Kincaide  
 Dorothy A. Kinzey  
 Marshall H. Kramer  
 Lois B. Kramer  
 David Kruger  
 Janet Laytham  
 David S. Lubs  
 Bruce Lugn  
 Lyle Lumsden  
 Mary Ellen Mann  
 Jane A. Manning  
 Robert E. McCarthy  
 Mary L. McClelland  
 Janet C. McDermott  
 Thomas McGarril  
 Teresa A. McPalmer  
 Paul S. Messinger  
 Darlene Mickey  
 Donald P. Miller  
 Miriam M. Miller  
 John D. Morrison  
 Ruth Ann Neely  
 Sammy Ng  
 Kathleen O'Hara

Margaret N. Owen  
 Gunnel M. Porelius  
 Nancy J. Prolman  
 Ellen Radday  
 Roslyn Robinson  
 Linda Robinson  
 Lila Sanger  
 Margaret Schaefer  
 Phil Schneider  
 James R. Shea  
 Dorothy W. Shields  
 Samuel Shinn  
 Aileen M. Solomon  
 Stephen Spangler  
 Sarah P. Springer  
 Jacalyn M. Stein  
 Richard Sullivan  
 Katherine E. Sullivan  
 Lucy E. Thompson  
 Jean R. Tienken  
 Mary Grace Tillotson  
 Terry K. Treadwell  
 Marilyn Walker  
 Monika R. Walker  
 Albert Warner  
 William Whitesell  
 Robin C. Williams-Richardson  
 Katherine Wood  
 Wendell Yee  
 Riley M. Yriart

## CLUBS

ALRI's six clubs give members an opportunity to explore a variety of special interests. Clubs usually meet monthly.

**Travel Club** – First Wednesday of the month, 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center. Contact Sharon Schoumacher at (703) 522-9014 or [sharon@earthwave.net](mailto:sharon@earthwave.net).

**Cinema Club** – Monthly movie date. Contact Judy Yavner at [jyavner@mindspring.com](mailto:jyavner@mindspring.com).

**Current Issues Club** – Third Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Contact James Walsh at (703) 920-1709 or [walsh22204@aol.com](mailto:walsh22204@aol.com).

**Bridge Club** – Monthly in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at [fosterbf@aol.com](mailto:fosterbf@aol.com).

**Book Club** – Alternating months at Arlington County Central Library. Contact Marge Alia (noting ALRI Book Club in subject line) at [Malia04@comcast.net](mailto:Malia04@comcast.net).

**Ethnic Lunch Club** – Usually last Thursday of the month at local ethnic restaurants.

Contact ALRI, (703) 228-2144, choose option "5" (clubs) and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

## SPECIAL EVENTS HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU

Classes over? Other organized groups winding down for the summer? Avoiding the heat and summer vacationers by sticking close to home? ALRI's calendar of special events has something for you.

Registration is now open for the events listed below. Check the ALRI website for other special events which will be added when details are available.

**There are three ways to register:**

- Online – [www.ArlingtonLRI.org](http://www.ArlingtonLRI.org)
- Phone – 703-228-2144 and press “3” for Special Events
- Email – [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org) (Use “Special Event reservation” in the subject line.)

### **Sunday, May 20 – Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Encore**

This special concert, under the direction of Sylvia Alimena, will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. A block of 20 discounted tickets at \$13 each has been reserved for ALRI members who register. The reserved tickets will be held at the will-call desk at the Masonic Memorial until 15 minutes before the performance. Then the tickets will be released to the general public. *ALRI will accept reservations until May 15.* All other members and guests may purchase tickets directly from the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra at regular prices. For ticket prices and other information, please call the orchestra at (703) 256-2956. 3 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria.

### **Monday, May 21 – Amazing Polymers and Plastics: Revolutionary Technologies to Life Itself**

As a part of the Meet the Speaker Series, Dr. Andrew Lovinger, of the National Science Foundation will discuss revolutionary new technologies in “plastics” and “polymers,” including “plastic electronics” that could lead to color-changing clothing, robots with a sense of touch, electronic noses to detect explosives and new medical advancements.

3 p.m., Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free, and all are welcome.

### **Monday, June 4 – Women Who Dare Meet The Author Series**

Two authors of “Women Who Dare,” the Library of Congress’s 10-book series on American women who changed history, in another in the Meet the Author Series. Among women who will be discussed are Helen Keller, Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart.

3 p.m., Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free, and all are welcome.

### **Thursday, June 7 – Garden Stroll and English Tea**

Spend a relaxing afternoon on a guided stroll among the gardens of Green Spring Gardens Park followed by a full English tea in the 18th-century manor house.

Registration is required and is limited to 20 participants. In addition to registering with ALRI, each participant must call Green Spring Gardens Park at 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988, to make a reservation. There is a non-refundable prepayment fee of \$24 per person payable to the Fairfax County Park Authority when the reservation is made. The park accepts Visa and MasterCard. Identify yourself as a member of ALRI when making the reservation to ensure that ALRI participants will be seated together. Registration/reservations will be accepted until June 3. 1 p.m., Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

### **Friday, July 13 – National Portrait Gallery Tour**

Join ALRI on a tour of the National Portrait Gallery's outstanding collection of American portraits in the renovated Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. Registration is required for this free event, which is limited to 20. 1:30 p.m., National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C.

### **Thursday, August 2 – Museum of Daughters of the American Revolution**

A DAR docent will lead the tour through the museum's 27 expertly decorated period rooms. The tour also includes a peek into the spectacular DAR Library and a visit to the fascinating Exhibition Hall. Registration is required for this event, which is limited to 25. Registrants pay the \$3 fee at the Museum. 10 a.m., DAR Museum, Washington D.C.

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**ALRI**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 8**  
**GMU, Rm. 329**

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## **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."

## **Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute**

ALRI offers 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, Sunrise Senior Living at The Jefferson,  
Elderhostel Network