



ALRI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG

An Organization in Progress

The Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute is always a work in progress. Here's a quick roundup of current activities.

Classes began on March 9 for 21 of the spring semester courses. If you've not yet registered, check the ALRI website to see if openings remain in the other 11 courses scheduled to start in April. Six courses maxed out within two weeks of the start of registration: "Natural Approaches to Wellness," "Arlington History," "Our Legacy from the Middle Ages," "Global Hot Spots," "U.S. Congress" and "Philosophical Aesthetics, or Art: Truth or Deceptions."

Six special events are slated for April and one for May. The special events committee, which organizes events throughout the year, will add May and summer events to the website regularly and announce them to members through emails and mailings.

One new **ALRI club** has been added to the roster – the breakfast club. It meets each Wednesday at 8 a.m. at the Silver Diner in Clarendon. ALRI's five other clubs – book, bridge, current events, ethnic lunch, travel – continue to meet regularly.

The **nominating committee** is working to complete the roster of candidates for the ALRI board. Sammy Ng heads the committee; members include Mary A. Fitzgerald, John Heyer, Jack Norman, Mary C. Pendleton and Ron Wise. If you're interested in serving on the board or know someone who might be, contact Ng at 703-532-1497 or doerrng@comcast.net.

Plans are underway for ALRI's **annual meeting** on Friday, June 12, at 9 a.m. at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The agenda will include the election of officers.

No magic wand sets these activities in motion. ALRI's volunteer board, the executive director and the administrator all work to assure that the organization moves forward. They're aided by numerous volunteers: course instructors, committee members, class aides and administrative assistants, all essential to a vital organization.

If you're interested in becoming an ALRI volunteer, please go to the ALRI website (ArlingtonLRI.org), where you can complete a volunteer form online or print one on paper. Alternatively, you can call the ALRI office (703-228-2144) and ask for a form to be mailed to you.

Newsletter editors and writers are especially needed. Jeanne Spratt (jrs4600@verizon.net) can provide details on these opportunities.



President's Report

ALRI reached a new all-time high of 563 in course registrations for the spring term as of February 18. Clearly the work of the Academic Programs Committee has again paid off in developing courses of interest to ALRI's membership. And in spite of the economy's downturn I'm pleased to report there has been no decline in membership.

Five seats on the 14-member ALRI board will become vacant at the end of June. You have all received notice of the formation of the 2009 Nominating Committee, chaired by Sammy Ng and including Mary Fitzgerald; John Heyer; Jack Norman; Mary Pendleton and Ron Wise. If you are interested in serving on the board, or can suggest someone who might be, please let Sammy Ng know.

ALRI *cannot function* without a team of board members willing to take on the tasks of leading and managing its activities. So if you appreciate what ALRI provides, want to see it continue to evolve, and have skills you're willing to apply, think seriously about volunteering to serve on the board. Terms last one year, and the duties are not onerous. Some of the board positions draw upon good management skills, e.g. Publications Committee chair. Others involve a willingness to develop activities and interact with non-ALRI organizations, e.g. Special Events Chair.

Remember, through your friends and classmates, you are the best recruiter for both new ALRI members and potential board members.

—John Sprott

Spotlight on ALRI Staff

By now we're hoping you know one or both of ALRI's two part-time staff members who work closely with the board and the volunteer committees to support ALRI. Marjorie Varner, now executive director, served as administrator from May 2004 until Lisa Culp-Neikirk became administrator this past summer. Lisa's addition effectively doubled ALRI's staff and greatly expanded office hours at the Clarendon Education Center.

Together, Marjorie and Lisa cover the myriad of tasks that lie beyond the scope of ALRI's committees. They email notices to members, review and update website information, arrange classroom and meeting space, order supplies and equipment, process memberships and course registrations, and respond to member queries whether by phone or email or in person.

Marjorie works primarily to ensure that our pro-

cedures follow our policies. She negotiates with outside groups for classroom space and audiovisual equipment. She also oversees the ALRI scholarship program and supports the Community Advisory Council. She tends to shuttle between Clarendon and GMU-Arlington or off-site, depending on the task at hand.



Lisa specializes in updating the ALRI database and maintaining the website, including the online calendar.

She also directs our fabulous Office Management Support (OMS) volunteers at the Clarendon Education Center.

The ALRI office in room 304 at the Clarendon Education Center is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. To contact our staff, just email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or call 703-228-2144.

ALRI at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

Monday, April 6, through Monday, April 13 – ALRI office closed.

Friday, May 8 – New Members' Social, 2-4:30 p.m. The Jefferson.

Friday, May 22 – Spring semester classes end.

Friday, June 12 – ALRI annual meeting. 9 a.m.-12 noon. Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street.

SPECIAL EVENTS

To register for special events, go to ArlingtonLRI.org, call 703-228-2144 or email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org

Monday, March 23 – Meet the Speaker series. **Herbert Weinstein on Reading Food Labels: Become a Savvy Shopper.** Arlington Central Library, 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 – **National Chamber Ensemble: A Night in Vienna.**

Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 6:30 p.m. Registration required. Limited to 20 members. \$15, payable at concert.

Friday, April 10. Tour of the United States Capitol. Capitol Visitor Center, 10:30 a.m. Registration required. Limited to 15 members.

Monday, April 20. Meet the Speaker series. **Bernard Rostker on "I Want You!, The Evolution of the All-Volunteer Force."** Arlington Central Library, 3 p.m.

Friday, April 24. Pride of Place: Dutch Cityscapes of the Golden Age. 10 a.m. tour. National Gallery of Art, West Wing. Registration required. Limited to 30 members.

Monday, April 27. Meet the Speaker series. **Robert Earle on "Nights in the Pink Motel, An American Strategist's Pursuit of Peace in Iraq."** 3 p.m., Shirlington Public Library.

Sunday, May 3. Concert, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, with Silvia Alimena, music director. 3 p.m. George Washington Masonic Memorial. Registration required and limited to 20 ALRI members \$13 payable at concert.

CLUBS

Book Club. Alternating months. Arlington Central Library, 1:30-3:30 p.m. For information contact Marge Alia (noting ALRI Book Club in subject line) at Malia04@comcast.net.

Breakfast Club. Wednesdays, 8 a.m. at the Silver Diner in Clarendon. Contact Bruce Britton at bbrittonva@yahoo.com

Bridge Club. Monthly on irregular schedule in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at fosterbf@aol.com.

Cinema Club. Contact Leanne Peters at peterslp@aol.com or Janice Yeadon at jnyeadon@hotmail.com for next meeting date and details.

Current Issues Club. Third Tuesday. 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Contact James Walsh at 703-920-1709 or walsh22204@aol.com.

Ethnic Lunch Club. Usually the fourth Thursday. Call ALRI, 703-228-2144, and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

Travel Club. First Wednesday. 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center. For information contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014 or Sharon@earthwave.net

Welcome

Lita Arnold
 Jan Barry
 Gene Betit
 Dan Botticello
 Kathy Braeman
 Judy Braham
 Don Britton
 Anita Brown
 Mary Bruno
 Lee Burchinal
 Karen Cavanaugh
 Elizabeth Chimento
 David Cohen
 Marilyn Connors
 Fred Cook
 Donna Courtney
 Bill Darnell
 Nancy Ruth Davis
 Tim Dobbs
 Elaine Dobson
 Jef Dolan
 Sara Dolby
 Vivian Donahue
 Luetta Donalds
 Raoul Drapeau
 Sue Drescher
 Andrea Farsakh
 Beth Fedman
 Cornelia Frazier
 Jill Garzone
 Margaret Greenwood
 Wren Gurney
 Ethel Hansan
 Kay Harley
 Lorna Harrison
 Davis Hays
 John Heyer
 Linda Hill
 Lisa Hoare
 Donna Howell
 Howard Hudgins
 Lynn Juhl
 Herschel Kanter
 Tanya Kondili
 Lee Lederer
 Don Leverenz
 Richard Levine

Susan Levine
 Marcia Levy
 Joyce Lewis
 Susan Lively
 Rachel Lynch
 Jan Macdonald
 Nancy McConnell
 William McConnell
 Meritta McKenna
 Patty McLaughlin
 Jim McMahan
 Charlotte McPherson
 Jim McRae
 Marianne Milkman
 Ed Milton
 Bill Mitchell
 Mike Morton
 Jill Nixon
 Larry Nixon
 Linda Oliver
 Rosemary O'Neill
 Cólín Owens
 Rebecca Pariseau
 Donna Pastore
 Carolyn Peacher
 Elaine Plotkin
 Stuart Raynor
 Lucia Reynolds
 David Rhoad
 Pat Riggles
 Alvaro Rodriguez
 Eric Rosenquist
 Barbara Sandoval
 Susan Savage
 Terri Schapiro
 Shannon Sorzano
 Rose Stack
 Kathie Stolberg
 Marianne Strong
 Pete Taylor
 Margie Teed
 William Teed
 Matt Van Order
 David Varner
 Evelyn Walker
 Elaine Wells
 Mike Whitt
 Richard Young
 Pat Zimmerman

ALRI welcomes the 97 new members who have joined between June 1, 2008, and January 31, 2009. They include the following.



ALRI

Open
House

Pix

ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

Write to us: Adult Education Program/ALRI

2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306

Arlington, VA 22201

Voice: 703-228-2144

E-mail: ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org

Website: www.ArlingtonLRI.org

We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

Editor: Jody Goulden

Writers: Jody Goulden, Peggy Higgins, John Sprott,
 Marjorie Varner

Copy Editor: Ann Kurzius

Proofreaders: Marjorie Varner, Jeanne Sprott

Photographers: Jody Goulden, John Sprott

Desktop Publishing: Carolyn Gosling, Margaret Susank

FOCUS ON INSTRUCTORS

These profiles of two instructors illustrate the quality of ALRI instructors, their breadth of knowledge and their love of teaching.

Irmgard Scherer: Love of Philosophy



Spend just a few minutes talking with Irmgard Scherer and you'll soon recognize her enthusiasm for teaching philosophy.

She developed her love of the subject as an undergraduate. An "older student," she had first devoted time to raising her children and had had challenging life experiences. Studying philosophy gave her a framework for looking at those experiences. Her particular interest in the work of Immanuel Kant eventually resulted in publication of her 1995 book *The Crisis of Judgment in Kant's Three Critiques: In Search of a Science of Aesthetics*.

In her 16 years teaching at Loyola College in Baltimore, Scherer's teaching style evolved from "very professorial" to one that considers students' input and perspectives. Because philosophy is very abstract, she also finds it important to use "understandable language" without "dumbing down" her material. She provides real life examples to illustrate philosophical principles.

Retired since 2007, Scherer relishes her newfound time to devote to her family as well as the opportunity to teach retirees. Like so many other ALRI instructors, Scherer finds particular rewards in teaching retirees, whose insightful questions and enthusiasm, she says, make teaching them a "privilege."

—Peggy Higgins

John Edward Niles: Opera Enthusiast

Musician and conductor John Edward Niles considers himself fortunate. While most people link Lexington, Ky., with horse races and bourbon, he associates it with the great music program and fabulous teachers he had as a high school student there in the 1950s.

Teaching was about the only profession open to women then, says Niles, and many of his teachers reminded him of the beloved educator in *Good Morning, Miss Dove*. "My high school was full of 'Miss Doves,'" he recalls. "These women were just about ready to retire, and I got them at their peak, when they were in their prime and sharp, and there for my four years."

Now a "Mr. Dove" at ALRI, Niles draws on his knowledge and love of music and his years of experience to enrich his popular courses about opera and music. His current ALRI course is "Verdi: Revolutionary and Patriot." Niles' previous courses – usually one every semester – have explored Russian opera, opera singers, the history of opera and various composers.



Niles played cello with the Navy Band from 1971 to 1973, and Washington has been his home base since then. He worked with European-American productions from 1987 to 1998 and conducted orchestras in Prague, Helsinki and Linz. Asked for his most significant career achievement, Niles names his 25 years as conductor and artistic director of the Opera Theater of Northern Virginia. In addition, he is musical director of COLVA Productions in Fairfax, and program director of the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program of the Wagner Society of Washington, D.C. Somehow Niles also finds time to work a part-time job at Borders bookstore.

—Jody Goulden

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 50 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 Career, Technical and Adult Education Program, Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs, Sunrise Senior Living at The Jefferson, Marymount University, Elderhostel Institute Network

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."

If you are not an ALRI member
and wish to be taken off the
mailing list, please notify us at
ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or
703-228-2144

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute
2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306
Arlington VA 22201

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ARLINGTON, VA
PERMIT NO. 214