



ALRI NEWSLETTER

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WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG

MEMBERS CAN GIVE TO ALRI SCHOLARSHIPS

In July, ALRI established a new scholarship fund to be administered by the Arlington Community Foundation (ACF). Over the past few years, ALRI has contributed to several scholarship funds which honor people who were critical to our establishment and early success, such as Janice Gentry, John McCracken and Frank Wilson.

By establishing our own fund, we provide ALRI members with an easy way to support Arlington scholars. Also, ACF will publicize ALRI's participation in the scholarships program, and we will be recognized at the annual scholarship awards ceremony. This should enhance our identification as an integral part of the Arlington education community and increase awareness of ALRI's programs among the larger Arlington community.

The new fund furthers our relations with three of our key collaborators and supporters by providing scholarships for graduates of Arlington

Public Schools to attend either George Mason University or Marymount University.

The fund was established with an initial ALRI contribution of \$10,000, which will be invested and administered by ACF. For now, it will fund one \$1,000 scholarship each year. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of financial need. Community service, with an emphasis on service to elders, will also be considered.

ALRI members, simply by participating in the organization, have shown that they appreciate the value of education.

We anticipate that the fund will attract sufficient contributions to allow the principal to grow so that more, or larger, scholarships can be granted in the future.

In planning your charitable contributions, we hope you will support this effort. Tax deductible contributions may be made by check payable to ALRI with a notation that it is for the ACF scholarship fund.

—Jack Royer



Patrick Murphy, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, and John Sprott, President ALRI, at the Instructors' Course Preview.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ALRI Leadership	2
Spotlight on Publications	3
Donna Banks Joins ALRI	4
Fall Course Preview	5
ALRI at a Glance	6
Welcome New Members	7



President's Note

This fall term has seen more ALRI course registrations than in any previous term. Yet the number of members has remained about the same as at this time last year. I believe the jump in enrollments is a result of our continued offering of interesting courses, taught by an array of outstanding instructors who bring knowledge and enthusiasm to the classroom. I hope you are taking one or more courses this fall, as I am. Also, I hope you are participating in ALRI's excellent special events and club activities.

Once again it is time to call for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. The committee's work will begin in January, but the committee should be in place by December to ease the press of work and to take advantage of ALRI activities for recruitment.

Many of you may not be aware of the fact that all members of the Board of Directors are elected for only a year at a time. Current board members may choose to run for reelection, but they still must go through the nominating process. And replacements must be found for those who are stepping down. Needless to say, the maintenance of our organization depends upon having a full board of directors willing to manage the Institute. Thus the annual role of the Nominating Committee is critical to an effective ALRI. Please consider volunteering. For more information, see below.

—John Sprott

Are You Ready To Step Up to ALRI Leadership?

ALRI's annual nominating committee is now being formed, to identify interested members for upcoming vacant positions on the Institute's 15-member Board of Directors. The Board provides critical support to the Institute and its membership. Elections will be held at the ALRI Annual Meeting in June. **To join the Nominating Committee, email Marjorie Varner at ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or call her at 703-228-2144.**

ALRI has grown from the vision of a few individuals less than 10 years ago into a vital organization now offering 60 courses each year to over 650 members. The "face" of ALRI that most members see includes an attractive, informative course catalog, an easy-to-use website, a quarterly newsletter and, of course, enlightening and timely classes developed and taught by talented local people.

But behind the scenes, what makes all this happen is a corps of volunteers serving on the publications committee, the academic committee, other committees and the Board. Many of these vol-

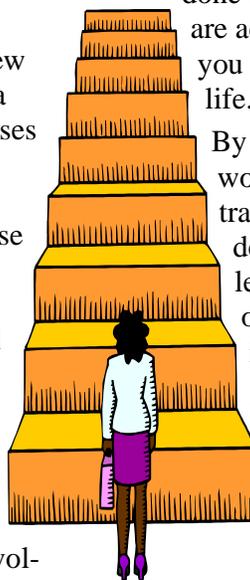
unteers have been helping out since ALRI began. But no organization can grow and thrive if it continues to rely on just a few people to run it. New ideas and new energy are needed, from an influx of new leaders.

If you've been hesitating to volunteer, please don't! No ALRI volunteer position requires an enormous time commitment or exceptional talent. Tasks are done on an episodic basis. All you really need are administrative and people skills – the kind you probably honed in your previous working life.

By volunteering now, you will be able to work this year as a backstop or leader-in-training. You will meet and work with a dedicated and welcoming group of current leaders. Let ALRI know you think enough of this community service to be a working part of it.

Please contact Ann Kellerman, ALRI's Volunteer Coordinator, if you are interested in volunteering. Email Ann at ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.

— Marolyn Hatch



News for You Direct from ALRI

This second feature on the publications committee spotlights the ALRI newsletter; in the last issue we focused on the course catalog.

Keeping in contact with ALRI is easy: Twice a year you receive the course catalog, and three or four times a year you receive our 8- to 12-page newsletter. And, if you lose your copy or prefer to use the internet, you can always find both publications on the ALRI website.

Jeanne Sprott, now co-chair of the Publications Committee with Dick Juhnke, helps you make the ALRI connection.

She edited the first ALRI newsletters in 2003, served as chair and acting chair of the committee, oversees the catalog production, and finds members to produce the publications. One of those she recruited is Jody Goulden, current editor and guiding light of the ALRI newsletter.

“What a pleasure to work in an organization that attracts people willing not only to help with a newsletter, but also to meet the deadlines,” says Goulden, a former editor of publications in the nonprofit and corporate world. “During my professional days, we were always dealing with deadline laggards, but not here.”

She’s speaking of the volunteers who contribute to the ALRI Newsletter as writers, copy editors, proofreaders, desktop publishers and printed copy distributors. Their combined ef-



L-R: Carolyn Gosling, Jody Goulden, Margaret Susank

“What a pleasure to work in an organization that attracts people willing not only to help with a newsletter, but also to meet the deadlines”

orts create the periodical you’re now reading, which keeps you up to date on all things ALRI. One recently

introduced feature – profiles of individuals who teach ALRI courses – has proved quite popular.

Although Peggy Higgins writes newsletter articles as a way to support an organization that benefits her, she finds her own benefits in that process. “One particular reward has been the fascinating discussions I’ve had with instructors who were the subject of instructor profiles,” she says. Others volunteering to write for the newsletter in the past year have in-

cluded Pat Chatten, John Heyer, Michele Leber, John Sprott, Marjorie Varner, Henry Brown, Susan Lively, Marti Conlon, Donna Howell and Leanne Peters.

Ann Kurzius, an experienced professional and ALRI copy editor, eyeballs the stories for readability, consistency and grammar, with an occasional assist from Bill Sullivan.

Originally printed in black ink only, the newsletter now sports color and plenty of photos and art. Joe Furgal takes many of the photos.

Arranging all the elements on each page is the province of Carolyn Gosling and Margaret Susank, who wield desktop publishing software to prepare the newsletter for printing. “Margaret and I have lots of fun doing the layout,” says Gosling. “It’s a chance to use our skills – and a challenge to make every issue inviting in appearance.”

Proofreaders pore over the finished pages for typographical and any other errors. Recent proofreaders have included Jeanne Sprott, Dick Juhnke, Marti Conlon and Marjorie Varner. Nearly 1,000 copies are printed, with up to 775 mailed to members and prospective members and 200 distributed at public locations around Arlington.

Is print still relevant? Will the ALRI newsletter eventually move to electronic rather than paper distribution, as many other newsletters already have? After all, an ever-growing majority of our 600 members have an internet

New Administrator Joins ALRI

Donna Banks joined ALRI this fall as administrator, taking over the responsibilities that had been so ably handled by Lisa Culp-Neikirk. The two worked closely together in September so Banks was able to hit the ground running when Culp-Neikirk departed to take on a new position as a journal editor.

Banks is working with ALRI members, handling course registration, maintaining the website, and taking care of the member database. She is also our liaison with the Arlington Career Education Center (CEC) in Clarendon, where she staffs the ALRI office in room 304. Banks is there Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and works on projects with the volunteers who are there from 12 -3 p.m.

She was drawn to ALRI because she thinks it's important for retired people to stay active and be involved in the community and in learning. One of her goals is to get more members to use the convenient online system to access ALRI programs and information.

A native of New Jersey, Banks moved to this area after college and now lives in Arlington with her husband and two sons. With a degree in economics, prior to coming to ALRI she worked for a non-profit group that provides low-income housing in Arlington, handling resident services such as social and health programs for seniors. She has also worked as an energy specialist for a law firm in Washington, D.C.

Executive Director Marjorie Varner says she is extremely happy to have Banks on board and looks forward to working with her.



— Maureen Quinn

STAFF CORNER

Doesn't change make life more interesting? On the first day of fall course registration, we bade goodbye to Lisa Culp-Neikirk and welcomed Donna Banks as our new administrator. Donna has already mastered the intricacies of our office system and impressed us all when she fluently answered a lost visitor who spoke only Spanish. So feel free to address her in English or Spanish – if she answers in Swedish and Hungarian too, we'll just have to give her a raise!

After a successful experiment with summer office hours, we are back to full speed at our office in room 304 at the Clarendon Education Center (CEC) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Donna is there from 10 to 2, and our valiant Office Management Support volunteers are busy an-

swering phones and assisting with general office tasks from noon to 3. I continue to work from our office at George Mason University's Arlington campus but often appear at ALRI classes or at the CEC to make sure all is running smoothly throughout the ALRI system.

The staff greatly appreciates the work of our class aides in making sure our instructors are supported each week in their classrooms. We hope our move to consolidate the photocopying of course handouts has simplified the role of the class aide so they can concentrate on audiovisual support and class communications!

We love working for ALRI and are always trying to improve our interface with you. To contact us, just email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or phone 703-228-2144.

— Marjorie Varner

After Course Preview, Nearly 600 Register

Some 140 people attended the Fall 2009 Course Preview, formerly known as Open House, on September 12 at the NRECA. Twenty instructors offered synopses of their upcoming courses, with most topic categories represented. By October 20, class registrations had reached 594.

– Marti Conlon



ALRI at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

- Wednesday, Nov. 11** – CEC and FCC and ALRI offices closed for Veterans' Day.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25, through Friday, Nov. 27** – ALRI offices closed.
- Wednesday, Dec. 16** – Fall semester ends.
- Wednesday, Dec. 23, through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010** – ALRI offices closed.
- Monday, Jan. 18** – ALRI offices closed for Martin Luther King Day.
- Saturday, Feb. 6** – Spring course preview at Washington-Lee High School. See details on website or in catalog.
- Monday, Feb. 8** – Online class registration begins at 10 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 15** – ALRI offices closed for President's Day.
- Monday, Mar. 8** – First class in spring semester begins.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

- Friday, Nov. 13 – Falmama: The Book of Omens.** The Sackler Gallery of Art, 11:30 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 20.
- Friday, Nov. 20 – Cedar Hill Estate (Frederick Douglass Home).** 10:45 a.m. Registration required. \$1.50 fee payable to coordinator on day of tour. Limit 30.
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Ford's Theater.** 10 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 20. **WAIT LIST ONLY.**
- Saturday, Dec. 19 – It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.** Encore Chorales at Kenmore Middle School Auditorium, 4 p.m. No registration required. Free.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29 – Botanic Christmas.** U.S. Botanic Garden, 10:30 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 15. **WAIT LIST ONLY.**

CLUBS

- Book Club.** Alternating months at 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 La Madeleine at Bailey's Crossroads, intersection of Columbia Pike and Rt. 7 (Leesburg Pike). Contact Karen Cavanaugh at kcavanaugh6@verizon.net.
- 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 movie 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 last Thursday. Call ALRI, 703-228-2144, and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.
- Travel Club.** Monthly on first Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpepper St., Arlington. For information contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014 or Sharon@earthwave.net

—Donna Howell

ALRI warmly welcomes the 124 new members who joined between February 1 and October 13 of this year, including –

Doris Ablard	Barbara Farris	Joann Kelly	Kathleen Riddle
Stu Adams	Leticia Flores-Pick	Bob Knisely	Jim Ring
Hammy Aklilu	Vera Foresman	Ruth Kolozy	J Ashley Roach
Janet Bailey	Joslin Gallatin	Anne Larsen	Pam Roach
Bob Baldwin	Tony Gallo	Bev Laub	John Romano
Nicholas Benton	Sheila Gell	Nancy Leach	Rick Rooney
John Bott	Sylvia Glover	Edith Lund	Diane Royal
Peter Braham	Ellen Goltzer	Mary MacCarthy	Joe Schneider
Lynn Brown	Connie Goodman	June Malina	Howard Schreier
Chuck Browne	Leonard Gorden	Kenneth Marshall	Christi Schrodtt
Susie Cahill	Paulette Grandmont	Steven Mauren	Marie Shiels-Djouadi
Don Campbell	Mary-Alice Gray	Michael Mele	Michele Shomaker
Helen Cassidy	Joanne Grimes	Betty Mele	Don Siebenaler
Marie Cavanaugh	Hanna Grossman	John Metzler	Mel Siegel
Carol Chmelynski	David Grossman	Esther Montgomery	Marilyn Silver
Margaret Collier	Judy Hadden	Ann Mulrane	Fran Simms
John Connors	Jack Hansan	Laura Murray	Laura Smith
Patricia Connors	Marilynn Harned	Mary Niebuhr	Sheila Stapleton
Ann Cook	Stanley Helsel	Marianne O'Brien	Kathalina Stein
Betsy Deering	Kathleen Hogan	Betsy O'Connor	Marv Stephens, Jr
Nancy DeRiggi	Ed Holland	David O'Connor	Larry Suiters
Virginia Dobozy	Charles Hookey	Elsa Ortiz	Joyce Suydam
Eileen Doheny	Anne Horton	Elaine Ott	Patrice Tighe
Mike Doheny	Barb Huntoon	Helen Pape	David Tuckerman
Mike Donovan	Joanne Hutton	Bob Park	Roberta Van Haeften
Bruce Douglas	William Itoh	Eldor Pederson	Thomas Walker Sr.
Ralph Driscoll	Linda Jasper	Suzanne Perry	Celeste Washington
Eleanor Dunlap	Judy Johnson	Ed Rea	George Weber
Cedar Dvorin	Beejee Juhnke	Viv Reeves	Catherine Wilson
Sandy Edwards	Elyse Kaye	Muriel Reichard	Leonard Wong
Linda Fager	Mary Keeney	Wayne Riddle	Rosemary Ziskind

(News continued from page 3)

connection. But given our average age, many of us still like a periodical we can carry with us and hold in our hands to read – without having to print it out for ourselves. That preference may change with time and technology that could permit individuals to opt out of a print newsletter, but for now we're sticking with printing and mailing the newsletter to each member. In the meantime, those who prefer to read it online can always find current and archived issues of the newsletter on the ALRI website.

To read the newsletters online, go to ArlingtonLRI.org, click on publications, click the arrow at Newsletter to open the list of newsletters and click on the one you want to read.

ALRI Newsletter

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We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

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Marjorie Varner

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Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

ALRI offers college-level noncredit 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."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Spring Course Preview
February 6, 2010
Washington-Lee High School

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