



ALRI NEWSLETTER

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APS vis-à-vis ALRI

Arlington Public Schools (APS) is one of ALRI's original affiliates, along with George Mason University and Arlington County. The first ALRI "office" outside of its officers' homes was a single cubicle in APS's Career, Technical and Adult Education (CTAE) suite in the Clarendon Education Center, fondly known as the CEC. Of the 18 ALRI courses offered in the spring of 2003, 17 were taught at this APS administrative building.

One of our earliest champions within the school system, Janice Gentry, worked under Mike Morton when he served as director of CTAE. Janice mastered the practicalities of developing a workable framework for the budding institute--and navigated the school system's financial and scheduling systems to get our first classes launched. Mike Morton, now an ALRI vice president, recalls that Janice's early and complete dedication to the establishment of ALRI with the support of APS was



APS's CTAE Staff

astonishing given her rapidly declining health situation. Her enthusiasm and her vision of ALRI as an integral part of community education were greatly appreciated by ALRI, which contributes annually to a scholarship fund in her memory.

While the number of courses offered at the CEC has dropped, ALRI's administrative space within the CEC has grown considerably. After moving from the cubicle to a stand-alone office on the third floor in October 2006, ALRI was offered a suite-within-a-suite last summer. This move gave us access to another smaller classroom (our old office, room 304) and provides our administrator and the ALRI board, publications and office management support teams ample space to work on their various assignments within close proximity to the CTAE staff. APS planning staff recently surveyed our office and classroom requirements in anticipation of the expiration of the CEC lease in 2012.

Kris Martini, director of CTAE, serves on ALRI's Community Advisory Council and works closely with ALRI to facilitate our use of school space and equipment for classes and meetings as well as allocating dedicated and furnished rooms for our office needs. His staff lends a hand with classroom scheduling and setup along with a myriad of other logistical tasks.

APS Superintendent Pat Murphy also serves on ALRI's Community Advisory Council and has spoken at our course previews. The unflagging support of APS superintendents has provided a continuous home for ALRI since 2002. In the view of Dr. Murphy, ALRI is a stakeholder in the APS community and part of the continuum of education available to our citizenry.

—Marjorie Varner

'Rebranding': A Rose by Any Other Name



All members received a letter in August to bring everyone up to date on ALRI's "rebranding" effort. It might be worth further explaining why the board thinks it necessary to change the name of our organization. We recognize that Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute is a pretty good descriptor of who we are. From the point of view of current members, there would seem to be no need for a change. People already familiar with our program will probably be attracted to ALRI no matter the name.

However, to maintain—and preferably increase—our membership numbers for the medium to long term, we need to think about attracting the next generation (the Baby Boom). AARP and many other organizations have spent a lot of

(Rebranding continued on page 7)



President's Note

It seems hard to believe that by this time next year ALRI will have been providing courses, events and club opportunities to the community for ten years! To mark this decade your board is beginning to think on how best to celebrate what has been accomplished and look forward to the next five and ten years. If you have any thoughts on ways to observe ALRI's tenth anniversary, let your board know via an email to ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.

Demonstrating the strength of our relationship with essential affiliates, it was rewarding to have two of ALRI's earliest and most key supporters present at the September course preview. Dr. Tom Hennessey, chief of staff of George Mason University, and Dr. Pat Murphy, superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, spoke of their institutions' current programs and plans for the future, including their continued strong support for ALRI as a part of the area's educational system. They see, as we do, that our contribution to adult learning and theirs are mutually beneficial in enriching the community.

Interested in having a more intimate role in the selection of ALRI board members? Then become a member of the Nominating Committee. Email your interest to ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org, noting how you have participated in ALRI. A demonstrated interest in ALRI, via volunteering and/or participation in our courses or special events, is all that is required. Nominating Committee work should begin in late January and be completed by the first of May. There are few meetings; the assignments are done by personal contact, phone calls, and email.

– John Sprott



Mike Morton

We have recently welcomed four new members to ALRI's Board of Directors. Each brings valuable talents to the organization.

Mike Morton, elected to one of our two vice-president slots, has been a professional educator with particular expertise in adult and technology education. After a number of years in teaching and administrative work, he served 20 years as executive director of the Maryland governor's state vocational and technical education council. Mike was involved in ALRI at its very beginnings. Because of his expertise in adult education, his advice was sought when the feasibility of establishing our organization was being studied. This gives him a special perspective. For Mike, participation in ALRI has been a "capstone" to his career in education. He sees ALRI as "the ultimate adult education."

Bob Bemben, new co-chair of the Class Aides Committee, always wanted to be a "professional student." An ALRI member for five years, he takes five or six classes each term and arranges his life around them.



Bob Bemben

The quality of our instructors is so great, says Bob, that it's "impossible not to learn." Bob is retired from the Department of Defense where he served as director of contracting for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Prior to that, he was a senior

Summer Election Strengthens Board

policy analyst on the staff of the Secretary of Defense.

ALRI's new secretary is Art Gosling. Another longtime educator, Art worked in various locales as an English teacher, high school principal, assistant superintendent of schools, and superintendent of schools in Arlington. "Mostly retired," Art currently works part-time as executive director of a superintendents' group made up of school superintendents in the DC metro area. In addition to the routine duties of secretary, Art has been asked to reorganize and revise, as needed, a variety of ALRI protocols, e.g., financial procedures and clearances, and to review all operating manuals.

Karen Cavanaugh, new co-chair of the Membership Committee, is another board member who is not fully retired. She works two days a week at the National Science Foundation where she does grants management and is helping to install a new financial management computer system. In 2008 she retired as director of financial management policy at the U.S. Department of



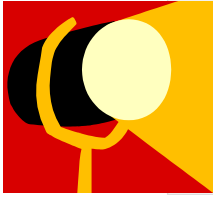
Karen Cavanaugh

Health and Human Services. At ALRI she has served as a class aide and co-hosts the Breakfast Club, in addition to working with the Membership Committee. As she helps to lead this committee, she will focus on both new member recruitment and retention of current members.

– Peggy Higgins



Art Gosling



SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS

John Barclay Burns: Changing Roles



John Barclay Burns has played many roles, both real (college professor, parish minister, noted linguist) and on stage (police officer, headmaster). He's on the ALRI playbill now as the instructor for "Religions of the East," the third ALRI course he's taught.

Born in Scotland and educated at the universities of St. Andrews and Glasgow, Burns studied English and specialized in Hebrew and Semitic languages at divinity school. With no Old Testament teaching jobs in Scotland, he entered the ministry, first at a parish for the Church of Scotland, then in the Presbyterian church in a Toronto suburb and finally in Fairfax County.

After 16 years, he joined the faculty of George Mason University, teaching religions of the ancient Near East, western religions and early Judaism, then developing a graduate concentration in religion, culture and values within interdisciplinary studies.

Today's classroom is not the one we knew in the 1980s, Burns explains. The student body is more diverse, English is often not students' first language, and learning styles have changed. "Memorization doesn't exist anymore," he says. "We haven't dumbed down the curriculum, but there are fewer tests, more research papers, and the internet." He now warns students that "I can type in two sentences (from their paper) and know if they're lifting it." Many students bring e-book bibles to class, with English text on one side of the screen and Hebrew on the other. And few take notes. The important thing, he says, is that students know where to find something and understand the material.

Though he retired in 2010, he still teaches a course at GMU. At ALRI he is challenged by students who are his contemporaries, with similar educational backgrounds and now retired from successful careers. He prods his GMU students to ask questions and participate in good discussions, just as we retirees do.

But what about those other roles? Burns performed them as part of his lifetime in community theater productions, from Shakespeare to Gilbert and Sullivan to "My Fair Lady," in which he played Henry Higgins not once but twice.

He's had one distinction few amateur actors ever achieve: performing before two U.S. presidents. The first and second Bush presidents and their wives attended a 2000 British Embassy Players production of Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web." With Burns in the cast was Margaret Conway Molster, wife of George W. Bush's brother Marvin.
 — Jody Goulden

Lesley Lee Francis: Robert Frost's Granddaughter

Who better to teach about Robert Frost and his poetry than his granddaughter?

Dr. Lesley Lee Francis – daughter of Lesley Frost, the eldest of the poet's four children – has lectured and published extensively on her grandfather; her biographical study *Robert Frost: An Adventure in Poetry, 1900-1918*, is available in paperback (Transaction Publishers). For ALRI she is currently teaching "The Poetry of Robert Frost" and has previously taught "Robert Frost: Storyteller" (about his narrative poems) and "Robert Frost: Love Poet" (about all types of love, from love of nature and family to romantic love). She is now preparing yet another ALRI course: "Robert Frost: Philosopher."

Dr. Francis has also taught ALRI courses on the works of Federico García Lorca and Miguel de Cervantes, in her

(Francis continued on page 4)

ALRI Scholarship Awarded to Arlington Student

On June 6, the Arlington Community Foundation held its annual scholarship awards program for 2011. This year's ALRI scholarship was presented to Regina O'Connor, who will be attending Marymount University in the fall to study nursing and hopes to become an emergency room nurse. The scholarship award is based on financial need and on a record of community service, with special consideration for service to seniors.

Regina grew up in Arlington with three sisters and a brother. She decided she wanted to be a nurse after attending Camp Med at the Virginia Hospital Center. She says she loved being a volunteer at Culpepper Gardens Senior Center, despite getting

pretty regularly "whopped" at dominoes.

This is the second award of the \$1,000 scholarship, which is given each year to an Arlington student attending either of ALRI's two university affiliates, George Mason or Marymount. Last year's recipient attends George Mason.



Regina O'Connor with Jack Royer

We would like to build up the endowment fund so as to award more or larger scholarships. In two years we have been able to add about \$3,500 to the original \$10,000 fund. Any member who would like to support this fund can make a tax-deductible contribution to ALRI and note on the check that it is for the ACF scholarship.

— Jack Royer

(Francis continued from page 3)

professional discipline of Spanish language, literature, and history.

With an A.B. degree from Radcliffe College and a Ph.D. in Romance Languages from Duke University, Dr. Francis was a professor at a number of colleges and universities and ran a summer program in Spain before moving to Arlington in 1974 and joining the professional staff of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in Washington, where she worked until her retirement. Her three daughters and six grandchildren live nearby.

After retiring she continued teaching and lecturing at various colleges and venues in the area; she is currently teaching two courses at Montgomery College, one on Frost and the other on Spanish literature, in addition to her ALRI course. During her retirement she has taught at Shenandoah University and in other adult programs, leaving little time to take ALRI courses.

Dr. Francis stresses the importance of keeping fit mentally and physically. Besides her teaching, she is active in a U.S. Masters Swimming program; having started to compete upon retirement, she is currently ranked in the top ten nationally in her age category. She tries to make early morning practice with the Masters coach three times a week, swimming 2,000 to 3,000 yards in the various strokes. She believes both swimming and teaching have added greatly to the quality of her life.



As for the teaching that keeps her mentally sharp, she considers Frost an ideal subject for adult courses. "He's accessible but with underlying complexity, and he's a true craftsman," she says. She quotes the last stanza of his poem "Two Tramps in the Mud" to explain why she teaches:

"But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future's sakes."

Students of Lesley Francis' courses on her grandfather are in for a treat.

— Michele Leber

ALRI welcomes the following 90 new members who have joined between April 7, 2011 and October 13, 2011. They bring ALRI membership to 683.

Nicholas Acheson
Rose Avent
Susanne M Bacon
Roy V Barnes
Harold G Bean
Mohamed Ben Jemaa
Mary F Bley
Jaroslava Bloomberg
Geoffrey R Borthwick
Sherrie M Brown
John C Bruse
Mary-Nell Bryant
Dianne Cancian
Joan S Carter
Janice Chapman
Dorothy H Clarke
Maureen V Coleman
Patricia D Crawford
Richard L Crawford
John O Curley
Dawn Donald
Barbara C Faist
Anthony M Fazio
Diane M Field
Carla F Fletcher
Fred Freme
Pamela Gavin
Robert S Gelwicks
Ruth E Gibbons
Leonard S Goldberg
Bernard Grand
Brian E Gray

John B Greenwood
Sarah M Gregg
Rita Grieco
Louise A Guey-Lee
Martha M Haines
Carolyn E Heasley
Stephen D Hopper
Joan Janis
Janis J Johnson
Richard L Kelly
Eugene R Kremer
S. Lillian Kremer
Ruth Kurzbauer
Mildred M Lawson
Alexandra M Lewis-Haskell
Sally M Light
Eva G Lindsay
Carolyn J Lynch
John L Lytle
Eileen P Mandell
Wendy Marley
Marilyn W McCall
Susan A McGrath
Robert D McJunkin
Michael F Miller
William R Molzahn
Wendy T Molzahn
Jacqueline M Morse
John E Morton
Lucia M O'Bryan
Barbara L Olivere
Judy F Parente

Laura C Paul
Pehr H Pehrsson
Constance Pesachowitz
Alvin Pesachowitz
Joan V Polson
Barbara L Reed
Thomas Ripy
Diane Rivinus
Ruth Roush
Peggy L Rowden
Bette P Rudgers
Chris M Rutten
Mary Patton Sarros
Eric Schellin
Mary Schlichtmann
Robert Seitz
Sandra M Seitz
Elizabeth Shawen
Neil M Shawen
Martha D Stay
Ina Strichartz
Richard Taylor
Jean Terrill
Gerard Treanor
Carter Vaden
Jean H Vander Woude
Lucretia P Whitehouse
Julia Williams
Joan D Winston
Mary M Wolfson
Nicholas Zentos

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Staff Corner



ALRI's office hours at the CEC are now from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. The ALRI offices are closed Fridays and on all federal and Arlington public school holidays – even when some ALRI classes are in session (see the calendar on our website for specific dates).

Donna Banks, our administrator, works from the ALRI office in the CEC, along with office management support volunteers. Anyone wishing to join this group should contact Donna with a list of office skills and preferred hours. Our executive director, Marjorie Varner, works from a stand-alone office in the Truland Building on the GMU Arlington campus. To reach the staff, phone 703-228-2144 or email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.

ALRI Newsletter

A publication of the
Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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COURSE PREVIEW KICKS OFF FALL SEMESTER

An attentive, often amused, audience of 103 members and 33 guests listened to 13 instructors at ALRI's fall course preview, Sept. 10 at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building. President John Sprott opened the session and introduced the two guest speakers, Dr. J. Thomas Hennessey, Jr., chief of staff at George Mason University, and Dr. Pat Murphy, superintendent of Arlington County Public Schools. Both enthusiastically described fruitful links between their respective organizations and ALRI. Dr. Murphy also appealed for volunteers among the ALRI audience to get involved with students in the public schools, as either tutors or mentors.

The fall 2011 course instructors include veteran ALRI teachers who know ALRI members well and others who are new to ALRI. Academic Programs co-chair Bob Howe kept the schedule moving along, and each speaker seemed optimistic that registrations for his or her course would be high. Their hopes were realized two days later when "Registration Monday" opened fast and furiously with three of the 24 courses filled completely within the first hour. By 3 p.m. on that first day, seven classes were filled and 19 had met their minimum enrollment. The largest three classes offered this semester proved to be Notable Court Cases, The Arab Uprising, and Neuroscience and Society. Total enrollment for the fall semester is 586 registrations.

During the break in the course preview, ALRI members took the opportunity to talk to Cheryl Johnson, manager of the Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs. Members chatted also with various ALRI club representatives and enjoyed the Membership Committee-provided refreshments.

A number of instructors were unable to participate in the course preview but sent descriptions to be read to the audiences. A highlight of the morning was listening to ALRI executive director Marjorie Varner, who borrowed Professor John Barclay Burns' Scottish accent to deliver his remarks. Appreciative chuckles and applause greeted her performance. Following the preview, ALRI welcomed 14 new members from among the guests who had attended.

– Mildred Patterson



Calling All Travelers!!

Members of our Travel Club (which welcomes *all* ALRI members) have planned and executed group trips to a number of fascinating international destinations – Spain, Egypt, Italy, Africa, South America. But that's not all we do. Our members – armchair travelers as well as real-life adventurers and former expatriates – also meet monthly to discuss traveling or living in various locations both in the U.S. and abroad, and to explore modes of travel (from group tours to solo ventures, by plane, boat, train, or foot) and other related issues.

Have you traveled – or lived – somewhere interesting? If so, the Travel Club would love to hear about where *you* have been, what *you* have to say about it, and where *you* intend to go next. Photos are wonderful enhancements to your presentation, but not essential. If you're interested in coming to talk to a future Travel Club meeting, please contact one of the members below to agree on a date. We normally meet the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Langston-Brown Community Center on Lee Highway. Come along. We'd love to hear from you! Contact us:

Lois Chadbourne	703-522-5610
Jean Moore	703-370-4627
Connie Collins	703-527-4250

– Lois Chadbourne

ALRI at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

Friday, November 18 – ALRI Board Meeting, 10 a.m. CEC, Room 308

Wednesday, November 23 – Thursday, November 24 – No classes and ALRI offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

December 22 through January 2, 2012 – ALRI offices closed for the Christmas holiday

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Sunday, November 06 – **Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra**. Performance at Washington-Lee High School Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. No registration required; this event is free; all are welcome. Donations are appreciated.

Thursday, November 10 – **National Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal**. Performance at Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 9:30 a.m. Registration required; this event is free to ALRI members. Limited to 40 registrants.

Monday, November 14 – **Mongolia Mining Challenges**. Lecture at Arlington Central Library, 3:00 p.m. No registration required. This event is free; all are welcome.

Friday, November 18 – **The Great American Hall of Wonders**. Tour at the National Museum of American Art, 1:00 p.m. Registration required; this event is free to ALRI members. Limited to 20 registrants.

Friday, December 02 – **A Song for the Horse Nation**. Tour at the National Museum of the American Indian, 11:00 a.m. Registration required. This event is free to ALRI members. Limited to 20 registrants.

Monday, December 05 – **The Desert of Forbidden Art**. Film at Arlington Central Library, 3:00 p.m. No registration required. This event is free; all are welcome.

Tuesday, December 08 – **Seeing Gertrude Stein**. Tour at the National Portrait Gallery, 11:30 a.m. Registration required. This event is free to ALRI members. Limited to 20 registrants.

Thursday, December 15 – **Manifold Greatness**. Tour at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 11:00 a.m. Registration required. This event is free to ALRI members. Limited to 15 registrants.

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 an irregular schedule in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at fosterbf@aol.com

Cinema Club. Monthly on an irregular schedule. Contact Leanne Peters at peterslp@aol.com or Janice Yeadon at jnyeadon@hotmail.com for next movie dates and details.

Current Issues Club. Third Tuesday of every month, 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 of each month. Call ALRI, 703-228-2144, to leave a message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

Travel Club. Monthly on first Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St., Arlington. For information contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014 or sharon1006@verizon.net

(Rebranding continued from page 1)

time and money discovering that the word *retirement* holds no appeal for boomers. This view is shared by all of the public relations firms we have consulted, by a small focus group of boomers that we convened, and by our Community Advisory Council.

We believe our programs will be as attractive to the boomer generation as they are to us. However, we first need to capture the boomers' attention, and the best advice we have indicates that doing so will require some new approaches. As one PR executive put it: "Always remember that the bait has to be attractive to the fish, not the fisherman."

We need to adapt to the ways in which the next generation and those beyond it communicate. This means we need to continue to improve the look of our printed materials, keep our website updated, and consider the use of social media. But first we need to settle on a name. The hope is that the board will choose one by year's end.

- Jack Royer

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**Look for ALRI's Spring Course
catalog on our website
in January 2012**

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 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