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# ALRI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

## Fall Program Offers Variety Of New and Familiar Courses

The Academic Programs Committee led by co-chairs Bob Howe and Joan Reed has assembled an exciting program that includes a variety of new courses and instructors – as well as some old favorites and new courses taught by familiar instructors.

A total of 28 courses will be offered. That's down slightly from last spring's total. However, about two-thirds are new – either new subjects and instructors or familiar instructors teaching new subjects.

The new courses and instructors include

- **NPR: The Inside Scoop!** – a behind-the-scenes look at broadcast journalism presented by National Public Radio staff. This course complements the previously offered print journalism course "Power of the Press."
- **Passages to India** – a study of divisions in Indian society based on caste, class, ethnicity and gender, and the forces that hold the country together. Kathy Sreedhar, Sonalde Desai and guest lecturers will discuss the country's history, politics, culture and economy.
- **Conflict Analysis and Resolution** – a study of how experts approach domestic and international conflicts, taught by seven professors from GMU's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.
- **Psychology's Hot Topics** – an examination of current psychological research and its implications, led by Tom Slomba.
- **Figures Can Lie – Separating Statistical Fact From Fiction** – a course taught by Richard Pariseau on how to judge the truth and significance of statistics quoted in the media.

Among the returning instructors teaching new courses:

- **Tom Wukitsch** is moving from his earlier Vesuvius and Pompeii across the Mediterranean to "Ancient Carthage and North Africa."
- **N. Thomas Connally** will use his medical experience to discuss how to avoid common diseases in "Beating the Odds – Living Longer and Enjoying It More," a follow-up to his earlier course on how the human body works.
- **John and Barbara Schnorrenberg** will return with (respectively) "Cathedral and City" and "The Tudor Century: An Introduction to 16<sup>th</sup> Century England."

*Fall Program continues on Page 8*

## Learn About Fall Courses Via Catalog and Open House

ALRI's fall term will start September 18, but members can view the course offerings by the beginning of August, when the new course catalog will be available online. Paper catalogs will be in the mail by mid-August.

Current and potential ALRI members can hear brief presentations from many instructors on their courses—and gather information on the institute's other activities—at the fall open house on Friday, September 8, at George Mason University—Arlington.

Fall course registration officially begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 28. Members registering online will receive immediate online confirmation of their registration plus a confirming e-mail. ALRI encourages online registration for its security, accuracy and immediacy.

Paper registrations received on or before August 28 will be processed on August 28 as a group in random order by the ITS team. Paper forms received thereafter will be processed by the ITS team in the order they are received. Members sending in paper registration forms will receive a letter confirmation once their forms have been processed.

**Register August 28**

## President's Report

Thanks to all of you who participated in the election of the ALRI Board of Directors. The annual meeting on June 9 was, once again, an interesting and useful gathering with lots of member participation that generated very good ideas and suggestions.

In the fiscal year that just ended (July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006), we reached our highest ever membership total – 532 – and offered 65 courses, our most ever, with 498 registrations during the spring, our largest-ever course enrollment. ALRI special events also grew to a frequency of two to three per month.

The spring term saw 16 new course offerings, and this fall that trend continues with 15 new courses. You will have much to choose from for intellectual stimulation among the courses, special events and other activities this fall.

Beginning in September, the board will hold its meetings on the third Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the CEC (unless otherwise noted). Meetings are open, and as an ALRI member you are welcome.

Watch for the new catalog around mid-August, and remember to attend the open house on September 8. Plan your fall around some ALRI courses, special events, and/or club activity.

I, and all the members of your ALRI board, wish you a great summer! See you in the fall.

— *John Sprott*



### Leading the Pack

ALRI's newly elected officers gathered for a picture after the June business meeting. They are, front row, left to right, Henry Brown, treasurer; Gerald Greenwald, chair, Organization Committee; Ann Wolfe, secretary; Joan Reed, co-chair, Academic Programs Committee; Jim Mayer and Gary Lee, co-chairs, Membership Committee; back row, left to right, Karin Price, chair, Special Events Committee; Bob Gibson, vice president/registrar; Jack Royer, vice president; Carolyn Gosling, chair, Class Aides Committee; and John Sprott, president. Not shown are registrar; Robert Howe, co-chair, Academic Programs; Richard Barton, chair, Community Advisory Council; and Kenneth McLean, chair, Information Technology Support Committee.

## ALRI Continues to Grow

The Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI) has experienced explosive growth in its mere three-and-a-half years of existence, with 532 current paid members and 65 courses offered in the 2005-06 academic year. Special events have increased to about two to three a month. There are six active clubs, and ALRI expects more in the future.

However, ALRI President John Sprott cautioned in his State of the Institute speech at the annual membership meeting on June 9, the organization is sustainable only if significant numbers of its members volunteer to serve on committees, act as class aides, and come forward to help when ad hoc projects need to be completed.

Currently about 100 volunteers, including a core of 25-30 who contribute substantially and consistently, keep the organization going. Sprott lauded their participation, but noted that many more members need to step forward to insure that future programs will be as successful as those in the past.

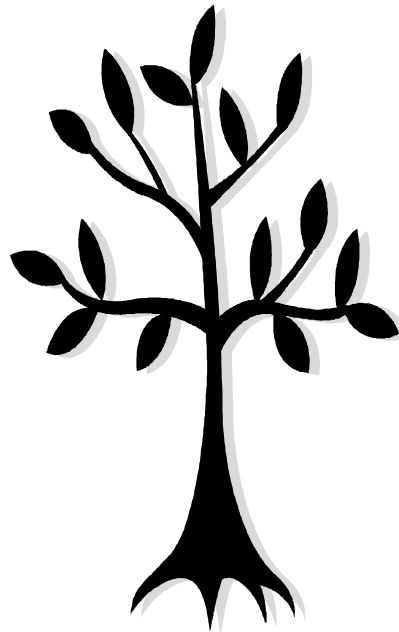
Sprott added that ALRI will be looking to find a home to anchor the organization in an Arlington County building, the Arlington schools or elsewhere. The school system helped launch ALRI but stated early on that it would not play a major role once the organization was established.

Mike Wyatt, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that 68 members at the annual meeting plus the 139 absentee ballots represented a quorum. Up for election were eight incumbent officers elected last year and seven interim officers appointed during the year. Wyatt noted that interim Publications Committee chair William Brannigan had withdrawn his nomination. The motion to elect the slate of candidates was made and seconded and carried in a voice vote. (See picture of officers, page 2.)

Treasurer Henry Brown reported that the 2005-06 budget of \$56,218 was underspent. As of June 9, 78 percent has been disbursed, and a projection of expenditures in the remaining weeks of the fiscal year indicated that LRI would finish under budget. In the new year (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007) expenditures are projected at \$70,500, to fund additional space and furnishings at the Clarendon Education Center office and to fund a part-time position for data entry. Sprott noted that one element in ALRI's success is its sophisticated and unique computer-based systems for registration and enrollment in classes and special events.

Bob Howe, the Academic Program Committee co-chair, said that 28 courses will be offered in the fall. ALRI will not offer Islamic Religion because the instructor will not be available. However, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russia, Planning in Arlington (a course on how Arlington County works), and a new course on how NPR radio works will be available. The committee always appreciates suggestions for new courses, especially when a potential instructor can be identified as well.

Ann Kelleran, volunteer liaison, spoke about the many opportunities available to volunteers: serving on committees, acting as class aides, setting up a club. Volunteers are needed to work in the office responding to phone inquiries. Some computer knowledge is necessary, but this can be acquired on the job. Opportunities are available on all the committees, and there is a special need for help on the publications committee, including a new chair, a catalog editor, a newsletter editor, writers, photographers, experts in desktop publishing. President Sprott noted again that more volunteers are essential if the organization is to survive.



*ARLI Grows continues on Page 11*

# Annual Meeting



Members engaged in a lively discussion of ALRI's present and future plans

## Add Some Interest to Your Life

ALRI members can already choose from eight special events scheduled through the end of the year, and more will likely be added. Special Events Committee members continually work with various organizations to prepare special events for ALRI members. For updates, new events that might be added and additional information, go to the ALRI website – [www.ArlingtonLRI.org](http://www.ArlingtonLRI.org).

**Monday, August 28 – Meet the Speaker Series: Creative Genius in Music**

A talk by Sylvia Alimena, director and conductor of the McLean Orchestra  
3 p.m., Arlington Central Library. Free, all are welcome, no need to register.

**Friday, September 15 – Tour of the Scottish Rite Temple**

A docent-led tour of the major Masonic landmark in Washington, the headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.  
11 a.m. Scottish Rite Temple. Free to ALRI members but limited to 20 registrants.

**Friday, September 29 – Tour of Walter Reed Community Center**

Walter Reed Community Center is the newest of Arlington County’s environmentally sustainable (“green”) buildings. A county staff member will talk and lead a tour.  
10 a.m., Walter Reed Community Center. Free but limited to 20 registrants.

**Friday, October 6 – Tour of the Bishop’s Garden, Washington National Cathedral**

Led by docent from All Hallows Guild, two-hour tour features rose and herb gardens and authentic ninth-century monastic garden.  
11 a.m., beginning at Herb Cottage. \$5 donation requested; limited to 20 registrants.

**Monday, October 16 – Meet the Author Series; “Just War, Lasting Peace” by John Kleiderer, Paula Minaert and Mark Mossa, S.J.**

General editor Dolores Leckey, of Georgetown University’s Woodstock Theological Center, will discuss what constitutes a just war, particularly with respect to Catholic and Christian traditions. Both the classical and contemporary just-war positions will be described along with several case studies.  
3 p.m., Arlington Central Library. Free, all are welcome, no need to register.

**Friday, December 1 – Tour of the Anderson House**

Experience the splendor of Gilded Age Washington on a guided tour of this Beaux Arts style mansion. Located on Massachusetts Avenue’s Embassy Row, the Anderson House was the winter home of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson III from 1905 to 1937 where they entertained the elite of Washington, including kings and U.S. presidents. The mansion is now a museum housing the Andersons’ collection of decorative and fine arts, as well as the national headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation’s oldest patriotic organization.  
1:15 p.m., Anderson House. Free but limited to 20 registrants.

**Monday, December 4 – Tour of the Mansion on O Street**

Picture an elegantly wrapped present with exquisite surprises inside. The Mansion on O Street is a gift to the senses – a showcase of varying architectural, artistic and design periods from Victorian to art deco/avant garde.  
Tour begins at 12 noon. Non-refundable fee is \$20 per person, lunch included. Registration is limited to 25.

**Sunday, December 10 – ‘Tis the Season: Annual Holiday Concert**

Celebrate the holiday season with the adult and children’s choirs of the Alexandria Choral Society. The concert features the winner of the 2006 Winter Carol Competition.  
4 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria. The tickets price will be announced on the ARLI website.

**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.)

## ALRI Needs You

You can use your well-honed skills or learn new ones to help ALRI in many ways.

Except for administrator Marjorie Varner, ALRI has no staff and relies on volunteers. Since a third of our membership turns over each year, and since veteran volunteers change positions, openings always exist for instructors, class aides, committee members and board members.

Volunteer liaison Ann Kelleran helps ALRI members--especially new ones--find the committee that best matches their interests. For more information, or to join one of the committees described below, contact her at [Kellerann@juno.com](mailto:Kellerann@juno.com) or 703-931-8528.

**Office Management Staff Committee.** Performs general office work in ALRI's CEC office under Marjorie Varner's guidance; monitors telephone and e-mail messages; helps with mailings; does some computer work. Three hours/one day per week.

**Academic Programs Committee.** Identifies course offerings and instructors; develops course descriptions for the catalog; reviews course evaluations. Word processing and editing skills helpful. Eight to 10 two-hour meetings March-June (for fall term) and August-November (for spring term).

# Volunteer Today

**Information Technology Support Committee.** Assists in developing and maintaining the ALRI data base and web site; processes membership applications/course registrations. Some computer skills required, especially knowledge of MS Windows. Three to four data entry sessions of two to two-and-a-half hours, twice a year during class registration.

**Membership Committee.** Implements all aspects of recruitment; provides hospitality for all public ALRI functions and social events; oversees volunteer services; facilitates organization of clubs. One one-hour meeting per month, plus additional time on specific activities, such as hospitality, the farmers' market, the county fair, etc.

**Organization Committee.** Oversees organizational governance documents; reviews proposed contracts; oversees the content of the annual membership meeting. An additional lawyer is needed.

**Publications Committee.** Coordinates and produces all printed materials for ALRI (catalog, newsletter, brochures, flyers, articles). This new committee brings together similar activities formerly dispersed over several groups. Currently needed are a chair, a second newsletter editor, editors for the catalog and newsletter, general editors, writers, proofreaders, publicity coordinator; desktop publishing gurus and photographers.

**Special Events Committee.** Develops, coordinates and implements ALRI events. Needed are people with ideas and/or connections for possible venues, exhibits, lecturers, authors, etc. One two-hour meeting each month, plus 10 to 30 hours per year setting up events.

— Ann Kelleran

## FALL OPEN HOUSE

### LEARN ABOUT COURSES FROM THE INSTRUCTORS

**Date: Friday, September 8**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**Place: George Mason University, Arlington Campus**





*Fall Program continued from Page 1*

- **Robert Stone** will continue his Civil War studies with “Lee’s Hollow Victories: Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.”
- **Dan Joyce** will join other GMU instructors to present “A Life in Dance.”
- **Carlos Stern** and visiting lecturers will discuss “Energy and The Environment – What Does the Future Hold?”
- **Potomac Institute** instructors will offer “Terrorism, National Defense and Foreign Policy,” a successor to their previous course, “Fundamentals of Terrorism.”

And an important repeat course:

- **How Arlington Works: The Inside Story.** Bob Brosnan, director of planning for Arlington County, and other county officials will describe how things actually happen here.

Reed and Howe emphasize that the courses highlighted here comprise less than half of the total offerings this fall. Details on all courses, their instructors, dates, times and locations will be in the fall catalog.

— *Bill Shumann*



## Notes From the Administrator

Summer usually brings a change in weather and schedule, but for me it has brought a real change in venue. My lovely little office space at GMU–Arlington is off-limits while the construction crews rebuild classroom space in the original building. While the ALRI office remains untouched, it is generally inaccessible, and those on the third floor were asked to relocate until the end of August. So here I sit in my home office, doing what I always do, only with the foods in my kitchen cabinet beckoning rather than a handful of soy nuts in my desk drawer.

E-mail has always served me well and continues to do so here. It is a little more difficult to reach me by phone, but you can leave me a message at 703-228-2144. Our able office management volunteers at the CEC cubicle continue to process our mail and general phone calls, while I monitor the e-mail traffic generated by our members (and the volumes created by our board!). Bulk spammers have discovered [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org), so I spend a few minutes every day weeding through junk e-mails and trying to devise better spam filters to eliminate the mess before I have to see it.

For those who don’t know, I have a couple of kids and a great husband who fully support my desire to spend my non-family hours working with you. Summertime, however, is bringing me more time with my youngest, as my built-in babysitter goes to cello camp in upstate New York for a month.

I plan to work reduced hours, mostly assisting our new Publications Committee with the fall catalog and making sure everyone is ready for the new semester. That includes our many instructors, our half dozen classroom sites, and the stalwart members who volunteer in so many capacities as we gear up for fall classes: the hospitality team, the new Class Aide Committee, our ITS committee, the bulk mail team, and, of course, the registrar. I’m looking forward to it! See you at the open house on September 8.

— *Marjorie Varner*



## Creating a Committee, ALRI Style

Take a few new members, a few long-term members and some with extensive ALRI volunteer experience. Stir in energy, commitment, creativity and patience. The result: the May 1 creation of the Publications Committee.

But the committee still needs a chair. If you're interested, call Jeanne Sprott, who spearheaded the committee creation, at 703-516-6030.

To form the committee, the team did everything from research to recruitment to development of the committee's structure, dictated by production deadlines for the catalog and the newsletter and the time constraints of volunteers.

The team concluded that job sharing for all functions would serve the committee best. The structure calls for two primary editors each for the newsletter and the catalog and a production coordinator. Support for all publications will be drawn from pools of writers, keyboarders, general editors, proofreaders, and production volunteers.

The safety-in-numbers theory has already proved valuable: Deadlines for the fall catalog and this newsletter were met even though some volunteers withdrew because of time constraints.

Special thanks for a terrific job of delivering the catalog on deadline go to Phyllis Bially, primary editor; Jerry Hoganson, editor; Jill Neuville, assistant editor; Margaret Susank, Dela Ng and Mike Leber, keyboarders; and Dawn Elvis and Diann McCormick, proofreaders. Additional thanks go to Jody Goulden, newsletter editor, and the newsletter contributors, photographers, copyreaders and desktop publishing gurus for a great job.

— Jeanne Sprott



### CLUB NEWS



## Pursue Special Interests In One of ALRI's Clubs

Whether you're a traveler, a film buff, a bridge player, a reader, a muller of current issues, or a fan of different cuisines, you'll find other ALRI members who share your interests in one or more of the clubs below. New members are welcome anytime.

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

**Cinema Club** – Monthly date for attending movie set to accommodate members' schedules. 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 Jim Walsh at (703) 920-1709 or [walsh22204@aol.com](mailto:walsh22204@aol.com).

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

**Book Club** – Second Monday of every other month, at Arlington County Central Library or in member's home, 1:30 to 3 p.m. 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 a local ethnic restaurant. Contact ALRI, (703) 228-2144, choose option 5 (clubs) and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

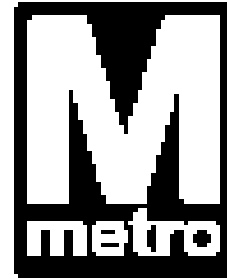


## Seniors Save on Metro

It pays to be 65 when you ride Metro.

The transit system offers a discount of 45 to 50 percent to seniors, and it's not hard (well, not *too* hard) to get it.

If you're 65 years old or older, apply for a Metro Senior ID card at any Commuter Store\*, WMATA sales office\*\* (including the Metro sales office on the Pentagon's upper-level bus bay), or public library (where an application can be made up to 30 days before one's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday). Be sure to bring a photo ID with proof of age when applying.



With the copper-colored Metro Senior ID that will be mailed to you a few weeks after applying, you can ride Metrobus for 60 cents (or \$6 for a weekly pass available at Metro sales offices) – just show the card to the driver.

For Metrorail, you can show the Senior ID at a Metro sales office to buy a \$10 Senior Farecard or a \$5 Senior SmarTrip Card, a plastic card that also can be purchased online. (Spouse and I recommend the SmarTrip Card; we got ours at the Commuter Store in Crystal City, where we applied for our Metro Senior IDs.)

And then you save. Metro says seniors pay 50 percent; I've found that the discount varies slightly (and how do you divide a \$1.35 fare in half anyway?), but we are now paying at least 45 percent less than the standard fare.

And those aren't the only savings available to seniors on the move. See the handy Arlington County brochure "Transportation Services for Senior Adults At-A-Glance" for more discounts. It's online at [www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/pdf/senior\\_trans.pdf](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/pdf/senior_trans.pdf).

\*There are three Commuter Stores in Arlington: in the Crystal City underground across from Hamburger Hamlet, in Ballston Mall, and in Rosslyn Center Mall at 700 N. Moore St., Suite 235. All are open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., plus Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ballston. A Mobile Commuter Store stops regularly at the Arlington Courthouse and Pentagon City as well; its schedule is available at [www.commuterpage.com/mobile/calendar.cfm](http://www.commuterpage.com/mobile/calendar.cfm). For locations of Commuter Stores in Alexandria and Fairfax County, see [www.wmata.com/bus2bus/smartbenefits/pages/commuter\\_stores.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/bus2bus/smartbenefits/pages/commuter_stores.cfm).

\*\*For locations of sales offices, call 202-637-7000 (TTY 202-638-3780).

— Michele Leber

## Age Pays with County's Super Taxi Program



Do you know that Arlington County has a super Senior Taxi Program?

Those 70 years of age and over may purchase a \$20 book of taxi coupons for half price, at \$10. Participants may purchase up to 15 coupon books per year, as long as the books are available. The taxi coupons are good for Arlington Red Top, Blue Top or Yellow Cabs. Each coupon has a cash value. There is no expiration date.

You may use the coupons to pay for your taxi fare, companion's fare and the driver's tip. Coupons may be combined with cash if needed; drivers cannot give change for coupons.

For further information and an application form, write Arlington County AAA-DHS, Super Seniors Taxi, 3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700-B, Arlington, VA 22201, call 703-228-1700, or go on line to <http://www.commuterpage.com/ART/supersenior.htm>.

— Leanne Peters

## Spring Offered Cornucopia of Classes

This past spring term was a good time to be an ALRI member. The institute offered a cornucopia of quality courses and special events. From Enneagram Applied, through Estate Planning and the Art in Shakespeare's Plays, to Arlington History and Essentials of Islam, members found themselves wishing for more time on their personal calendar as two, three, or four courses vied for their attention.

Perhaps as a consequence, class registrations reached nearly 500, higher than in any previous term. Thirty courses were initially offered, though two failed to reach the enrollment requirement. Some totally new courses appeared on the roster, including two on plants and plant life. The Environmentally Friendly Gardening course was taught by an engaging horticulturalist from the Virginia Cooperative Extension; and the Plants and Civilization course elucidated the relationship between plants and human history.

The broad range of courses offered participants a variety of experiences. Power of the Press, for example, brought participants into direct contact with seven different Washington Post reporters, including some whose stories appeared in the current week's newspaper. Since the teacher of the Arlington History course believes in teaching history where it was made, every class was a field trip, so to speak.

The Shakespeare course included a play from the current season of the Shakespeare Theatre Company, "Love's Labor's Lost," enhancing the relevance of the classroom work. Another theater course, From Page to Stage, organized a theater evening that gave the class the chance to see the instructor's work (costume design) on stage and engage in a talkback session complete with close observation of fabric and costume construction.

While theater courses readily lend themselves to this sort of "hands-on" demonstration – lab work if you like – less obvious courses were also made "experiential" thanks to the ingenuity and conscientiousness of the instructors. The Estate Planning course, for example, allowed participants to prepare in class their own Medical Directive (a critical document in the recommended estate planning package), thereby harnessing the motivation generated in class to get people jump-started on their estate planning.

— Dawn Elvis

### 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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### *ARLI Grows continued from Page 3*

Sprott asked the assembled members for feedback on three questions:

- Are members receiving too much, not enough, or about the right quantity of broadcast emails? After discussion, a consensus emerged that one a week would be about right.
- Would members respond to one or two all-member surveys per year? A consensus view was that a semi-annual, one-page survey on interests and skills would be acceptable.
- Would members suggest ways to find volunteers and encourage them to participate in the work and management of

— Gail Gulliksen

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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."

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## **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,  
Elderhostel Network