

ALRI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG



Office To Relocate in December

On December 21 the ALRI office will be moving from its current location in Clarendon to 2110 Washington Boulevard (Sequoia Building #2), near the intersection of Route 50 and Washington Boulevard. This move is part of the co-location of Arlington Public Schools (APS) offices, classrooms, staff and parent support facilities from the Syphax and Clarendon Education Center (CEC) buildings.

ALRI will be functioning in the new office by January 7. As of the end of December 2012, no classes will take place in the CEC building, and all offices will be moved. Whether ALRI's spring classes will be scheduled in the Sequoia location is yet to be determined.

ALRI Executive Director Marjorie Varner is pleased that APS is providing office space for ALRI in the new

location. "The new space is being built from the shell out with entirely new materials," she notes. "They are

adopting a new office approach with this build-out: individuals will have less dedicated space but share more open space. The building will provide a pleasant environment with more daylight, an attractive gathering area for visitors and a cohesive design."

For better efficiency and effectiveness, the layout will offer larger areas of open work space, clustered functions and the aggrega-

tion of shared support. Transparency of function and clear signage should ease navigation within the new space. Obvious separation between the public and private areas of the new education center—classrooms, in-



Sequoia Building #2

(Relocation continued on page 6)

Encore Learning — It's Official

At the June 8, 2012 annual meeting, members ratified the Board's decision to change our name from Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute to Encore Learning. On June 14 we received notice from the Virginia State Corporation Commission that the new name has been officially registered.

With pro bono help from Reingold, a communications and marketing firm in Alexandria, our Working Group on Rebranding continued to develop new designs to be used in printed material and on our website. At its September 21 meeting, the Board selected the new logo and tagline shown below. The Information Technology Committee continues work on development of a new website as well as membership management and course registration software.



The Board is undertaking the actions needed to fully implement the change, such as changing the name on financial accounts, formally notifying our collaborating organizations and planning for orderly transition. As part of the transition, our website will continue to be accessible under the current address www.ArlingtonLRI.org.

In keeping with the earlier Board decision to phase in the new name, the spring 2013 catalog

(Encore Learning continued on page 6)



President's Note

As you are probably aware, at our annual meeting last June the membership voted to approve the board's decision to change our organization's name to Encore Learning. The process is under way, with a formal rollout of the new name, logo and tagline to take place at our tenth anniversary celebration, immediately following the spring course preview on February 2, 2013 at George Mason University's Founders Hall. If you would like to help plan this celebration, drop an email to ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or call the office (703-228-2144).

As I noted during the annual meeting, the board will be looking at how we might best respond to changes in the area's demographics and economy. We have already begun to develop a new website. A few of the questions we will be asking: What can we do better? How can we deal with the changing availability of classroom and office space? Are there, or should there be, limits to the size of our membership or the number of courses offered? If you have ideas send them to the board via the email address above.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer and work so well to make our organization successful: putting together wonderful special events, developing a great array of courses, creating the course catalog and newsletter, seeking new members and volunteers, supporting member functions, assisting the staff or just pitching in when or where needed. Thank you.



—John Sprott

ALRI Awards Scholarship to Yorktown Graduate

ALRI has awarded its third annual college scholarship to Huma Raja, a 2012 graduate of Arlington's Yorktown High School. As a participant in the Arlington Community Foundation's scholarship program, ALRI presented Huma with her \$1,000 scholarship during a community program held at Kenmore Middle School on June 12.



Huma Raja and Arthur Gosling

Huma and her family, seeking expanded opportunities and better education, moved to Arlington from Pakistan when she was two years old. Both Huma and her older brother have

begun attending George Mason University this fall. They are the first members of their family to go to college in the United States, and they hope to influence their younger brothers to do the same in coming years.

Huma's major academic interests lie in the areas of international and global affairs. She is fascinated by other cultures, their histories and geographies. She also

likes to give back. She has volunteered at Cherrydale Public Library, at an Arlington nursing home, and at Yorktown. She learned of scholarship opportunities through Yorktown's minority achievement coordinator.

The ALRI scholarship was endowed with an initial \$10,000 in 2009. A little over \$1,000 was donated to the fund by ALRI members last year. We currently award only one \$1,000 scholarship each year but hope to build up the fund so we can provide more, or longer term, awards.

ALRI members may make tax-deductible contributions to help maintain and expand the scholarship fund by sending a check to ALRI with a notation that it is for the ACF scholarship.

—Arthur Gosling

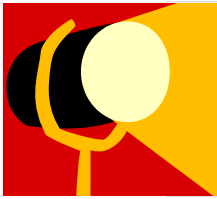
I would like to donate \$_____ to the ALRI scholarship fund for Arlington graduates attending GMU or Marymount Universities as administered by the Arlington Community Foundation. I understand that my donation is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the full extent permitted by law.

Print name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Send this form and your payment to ALRI, 2801 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 306, Arlington VA 22201 by December 2012.



SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS



Andrea Bartoli: Man of Peace

Andrea Bartoli says he “stumbled into the field of conflict resolution” years ago, when a family friend was in trouble. A native of Rome, Bartoli had studied anthropology and earned a PhD in public health. During his studies he had become friends with Father Jaime Gonzalez, a priest from Mozambique who was then studying in Rome.

When Mozambique became independent in 1975, the Vatican ended its policy of sending white Portuguese clergy to lead the church there and began appointing native black bishops. That's when Father Gonzalez became Bishop Gonzalez. However, the new military regime didn't trust the Catholic Church, so they jailed the new bishop; even after his release, they kept him from celebrating Mass. Bishop Gonzalez turned to his friends in Rome's Community of Sant'Egidio for help. The Community is a Catholic lay organization founded in 1968 by Andrea Riccardi, a high school student in Rome. He and some friends started living the gospel through prayer, service and friendship. Andrea Bartoli had joined the community in 1970; one of his brothers was already a member.

The Community organized meetings that helped change the Mozambique military regime's policies and offered financial support to Gonzalez. But this was only the beginning of the Community's involvement with Mozambique. Two years after independence, civil war began in 1977. By 1992, one million had died and five million were refugees. The Community's efforts in Mozambique's peace process brought them and Andrea Bartoli to New York in 1992, where they opened an office as they pursued peace through the UN. Their efforts resulted in the Rome General Peace Accords, signed Oct. 4, 1992.

Although the Community's work was changing the world, it was still volunteer work. Bartoli needed a paying job, so he then turned to the profession of his mother and five siblings: teaching. He has taught in the U.S. since 1994. He brought conflict resolution to Columbia University, where he founded the Center for International Conflict Resolution. In 2007 he moved to George Mason University, where he is now dean of the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. He sees a familial connection to this management position: his father was a manager at Alitalia.

This fall Bartoli is part of the five-member team that is teaching ALRI's course on emerging trends in conflict resolution. Asked what those enrolling should expect, he says, “To reflect on the way we handle conflict, and to consider how conflict dynamics affect us all.”

—*Laura Paul*

Ning Yang: China Through the Looking Glass

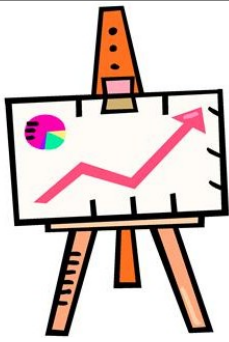
Ning Yang's love of learning started early. She began learning Chinese characters at age four. “My parents were worried about my eyes,” she recalls, “so they locked up the books, but I managed to find the key and I would sit behind the bookshelves and read. I loved many different kinds of books.”

Ning's parents were engineers who had met at college. She and her brother grew up in Luoyang, a city in central China, but she saw other parts of China as she accompanied her father in his work travels.

When it was time for Ning to start college, her parents decided she should study English. She felt her home city was too small and went to Beijing to study. At 21 she started teaching English as a second language at Beijing Language and Culture University, where students from more than 100 countries come to learn Chinese. Ning



(*Yang continued on page 4*)



Annual Meeting Report

At the annual meeting on June 8, 2012, members voted to support the organization's name change from the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute to Encore Learning. Including absentee ballots, the vote was 217 in favor, 54 against, with 9 abstentions. This membership vote was the culmination of extensive deliberations over the past two years on the organization's need to attract new members spanning a wide range of ages, career levels, and interests.

The meeting also included the annual election of officers and Board members. Nominating Committee Chair Don Schlichtmann confirmed the membership vote count approving the slate (see the 2012-13 Board in the photo below). He also noted that the committee is considering whether to recommend moving to staggered Board member terms so that all committees would maintain one experienced co-chair each election cycle.

The financial state of ALRI is good, according to Treasurer Henry Brown, who reported a May 2012 balance of \$257,369.92. The current membership is 747, with 627 course registrations in fall 2011 and 734 in spring 2012. Academic Programs Committee Co-Chair Lee Nash reported plans for 27 courses in the fall 2012 session.

Annual meeting participants learned the ALRI office is scheduled to move in late December (see related article on page 1); President Sprott reported he is working with GMU officials to renew our affiliation agreement.

Before concluding the meeting, members considered proposals for celebrating the organization's ten-year anniversary.

— Mary Crosby

Ed. Note: With input from the group of volunteers working on the anniversary observance, the Executive Committee subsequently decided on a combined spring course preview and anniversary celebration. That event will take place on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at GMU's Founders Hall on the Arlington campus.



Back row (L-R): Richard Barton, Community Advisory Council; Jack Royer, Vice-President; Arthur Gosling, Secretary; Steve Spangler, Info Technology; Fred Fagerstrom, Registrar; Bob Bembem, Membership; Lee Nash, Academic Programs; John Sprott, President; Mike Morton, Vice-President.
Front row (L-R): Henry Brown, Treasurer; Mary Crosby, Publications; Carolyn Gosling, Class Aides; Earle Young, Special Events; Bernie Alter, Academic Programs; Ed Rader, Membership; Mildred Patterson, Publications.

(Yang continued from page 3)

earned a doctoral degree in the Netherlands, a country she loves, whose people she finds similar to the Chinese —friendly, open-minded and family-oriented. Her studies of different languages and their similarities led to an interest in comparing cultures and teaching her culture to others. In March 2012, Ning and her daughter moved to Virginia, where Ning joined the faculty of the Confucius Institute at George Mason University, a partnership between GMU and the Beijing Language and Culture University. The Institute offers language and culture classes.

As part of her work, Ning gave a series of lectures on Chinese culture through the Fairfax branch of the

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program. This experience has confirmed her belief that it is important to exchange ideas among different cultures. As she teaches ALRI's Chinese Potpourri course this fall, Ning hopes to introduce students to Chinese culture by centering on five aspects: bamboo, lanterns, mahjong, films and chess.

"We'll go deep into these topics to see what they really mean," she says. "For example, bamboo is more than just a plant. It has been part of our culture, history and poetry." But the class won't be all serious, Ning promises. "We'll talk about games --- chess and mahjong and why they have become so popular in this country."

—Laura Paul

We are happy to announce the newcomers below, who joined ALRI in the six months between April 12, 2012 and October 2, 2012. Welcome aboard!

Kathleen Allegrone
Jean Aloe
Ed Aloe
Pat Arthur
Leslie Atkins
Margaret Balian
Mike Bates
Ken Bates
Nort Beckerman
Diane Beckerman
Roy Bottomley
Maxine Browning
Jeanne M Broyhill
Helene Businger-Chassot
Ann Connell
Jim Connell
Carol Dawson
Molly DeDominicis
Dominick DeMarco
Nancy DeMarco
Pat Deveny
Judith Donovan
Keith Dublin
Adela Eannarino
James Feaster
Shirley Fein

Liz Fette
Jill Garzone
Lisbeth Goldberg
Susana Gomez
Mary Gore
Helene Grace
Joyce Grand
Eva Griffith
Beate Guffee
Peggy Harrison
Howard Heit
Judith Henderson
Mina Hohlen
Don Huff
Margaret H Huff
Paula Kaufman
Nancy Kettelle
Joan Koenig
Ellen Kurcis
Charlie Langalis
Elizabeth Leovey
Frank Light
David Litman
David Lomax
Ray Lustig
Mary Machado

Robert Magner
Pat Maher
Alice Mandanis
Ellen Marcus
Steffani McFarland
Nancy McSarrow
Jackie Merz
Jennifer Messersmith
Joseph Metzler
Laurie Miller
Fatima Moghrabi
Anita Nicholson
June O'Connell
Janet Roberson
Florence Rogers
Natalie Rooney
Alene Russell
George Salvatierra
Marianne Sardone
Dave Shapiro
Dottie Shaw
Fred Sheridan
Marjorie Signer
Bette Smith
Charles Spencer
Joan Stanley
Nadia Tongour
Beth Unklesbay
David Walden
Eric Weber
Jane Welch
Linda Wetzel
Sandy Wixon
Cherry Woodburn
Sheila Zedlewski

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Staff Corner

Changes are coming to our name, our web presence, our address and our administrative offices. Hopefully, our membership will see a smooth transition!

As Donna Banks, our Administrator, moves her office as part of the Arlington Public Schools co-location in late December, we bid a fond farewell to our splendid suite in the CEC and enter the brave new world of an open shared environment at the Sequoia Building. I will remain in my office in the Truland Building on GMU's Arlington campus. For now, we both can be reached at ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org or 703-228-2144. Office hours remain 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Please check the calendar on our website for specific holiday closures. Staff will send out reminders of the planned move date and specific address updates as we approach the end of the year. Like our members, we look forward to an improved web experience and database functionality plus a new commute to the office, along with our new name and logo. Bear with us as we get ourselves up and running.

— Marjorie Varner, Executive Director



ALRI Newsletter

A publication of the
Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

Write to us: 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: Marjorie Varner

Writers: Julie Carr, Joan Carter, Mary Crosby,
Arthur Gosling, Laura Paul, Jack Royer,
John Sprott

Proofreaders: Donna Banks, Mary Crosby
Photographers: Marilyn Gaizband, Jack Royer
Desktop Publishing: Carolyn Gosling,
Margaret Susank

(Relocation continued from page 1)

terview rooms and cafe on the first floor, administrative areas on the second floor—is intended to reduce unnecessary foot traffic and increase security.

The ALRI administrative functions will occupy three cubicles on the second floor, in the private area. ALRI Administrator Donna Banks and volunteers will work from this area, but Marjorie Varner will maintain her office at GMU. Phone numbers for those moving will not be affected; ALRI’s main phone line will remain 703-228-2144.

The new location will provide classroom, office and meeting space not only for APS’s Adult Education group, which has supported ALRI since its inception, but also for their core and specialty curriculum groups, Food Ser-

vices, REEP, the Extended Day program, summer school registration, language services and registration center and Edu Futuro. The materials production room for teachers, the Parent Resource Center, the professional development library and the school system’s print shop will also be configured within the new space. The classrooms will feature advanced audiovisual capability and flexible accommodations. All furniture will be new.

In addition to free parking in the garage, the new space will feature a staffed reception area and an in-house cafe near the classrooms. Metrobus and ART routes connect the building to Rosslyn, Ballston and Pentagon metro stations. The Arlington Department of Human Services is currently in Sequoia Building #1, adjacent to ALRI’s new address. —Julie Carr

Flurry of Fall Academics

ALRI’s Fall Course Preview on Saturday, September 8, drew some 101 members and 36 non-members (14 of whom have since joined ALRI) to the NRECA building. Fifteen instructors from this fall’s 27 courses were on hand to give brief outlines of their courses.

The day began with coffee, tea, and a large variety of muffins, cookies, cheeses and other snacks provided by the Membership Committee. At one side of the large conference hall, tables were set up to provide information on the various ALRI clubs, special events, and the Arlington County Villages Project.

ALRI President John Sprott opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m., introducing all board members and staff. Next up was a short talk by guest speaker Dr. Patrick Murphy of Arlington County Public Schools, followed by a presentation by Lee Nash, one of the co-chairs of ALRI’s Academic Programs Committee. Lee gave an overview of the course calendar, briefly discussed the work that went into finalizing the courses for the fall session, and thanked members of his committee for the many hours of work this task required.

The instructors in turn presented overviews of their individual courses—and reasons why someone might want to sign up. Course offerings by instructors new to ALRI this fall were spotlighted: Ed Nef’s “Mongolia and the Rim of China,” Ning Yang’s “A Chinese Potpourri,” Don Schlichtmann’s “Health Care Reform Update” and Steve Goldman’s “Jesus’ Final Week and the Beginnings of Christianity.” James Giordano announced that his course, “The New Psychiatry,” will be postponed until the spring semester.

Two days after the fall course preview, when registration formally opened on Monday morning, September 10, there was the usual rush of enrollments. One course--Notable Court Cases--filled up within an hour, and by the end of the day three other courses had reached their maximum enrollment. As this

newsletter goes to press, 436 members have registered for 715 spots in our fall classes. —Joan Carter



(Encore Learning continued from page 1)

will carry the Encore Learning name along with the notation “Formerly ALRI.” We will formally launch the new brand at the spring 2013 Course Preview, in conjunction with our 10th anniversary celebration. — Jack Royer

Many thanks go to Reingold for their generous help in developing our new logo. The iterative process of design involved hours of interviews, feedback, discussion and plain hard work. Encore Learning greatly appreciates Reingold’s support, expertise and professionalism.

ALRI at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

The ALRI offices are generally open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check our online calendar for special closings.

Monday, November 12 – ALRI Office Closed for Veterans' Day Holiday

Friday, November 16 – ALRI Board Meeting, 10 a.m. CEC, Room 308

Wednesday, November 21 - Thursday, November 22 – ALRI Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 19 through January 6, 2013 – ALRI Office Closed for Christmas Holiday and Office Relocation

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Monday, October 29 – **The Man Nobody Knew**. Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome.

Tuesday, November 13 – **The Sultan's Garden**. The Textile Museum. Registration required. A voluntary donation of \$8 is payable at the museum; limited to 20 members.

Thursday, November 15 – **Written in Bones**. National Museum of Natural History. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 20 members.

Monday, November 19 – **The Voluntourist**. Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome.

Tuesday, November 27 – **1812: A Nation Emerges**. National Portrait Gallery. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 20 members.

Friday, November 30 – **African Cosmos: Stellar Arts**. National Museum of African Art. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 20 members.

Thursday, December 6 – **Women Who Rock!** National Museum of Women in the Arts. Registration required. Fees are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$6 for members; limited to 20 members.

Sunday, December 9 – **Eclipse Chamber Orchestra – December**. George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Registration required. Discounted tickets are \$15; limited to 30 members.

Friday, December 14 – **The Art and Culture of the Inuit**. National Museum of the American Indian. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 15 members.

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 – **United States Institute of Peace**. United States Institute of Peace. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 25 members.



Batter up! ALRI members tour National's Park

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 Sharon Bisdee at sbisdee@msn.com or 703-820-1439.

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, and leave a message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

Russian Conversation Club. Initially, meetings will take place at 2:00 PM on a day of the week most convenient to interested participants. For more information, call Helen Getter at 703-820-7246.

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.

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute
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Save the Date
February 2, 2013
Spring Course Preview and
10th Anniversary Celebration

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, Marymount University, Elderhostel Institute Network