



# ALRI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

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WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG

## Where Every Event Is Special

One of the best benefits of ALRI membership is having access to the many tours, lectures, and performances offered up by the Special Events committee. This group of a dozen dedicated members—including some who've served since the very beginning--coordinates the various offerings from conception to execution.

With venues ranging from the Sackler and Freer galleries to Amazonia at the National Zoo, ALRI special event tours allow small groups of ALRI members to explore the wealth of artistic, historical, botanical, and other cultural treasures nearby with the support of docents and well-informed guides. These fun excursions give members the opportunity to visit--or revisit with a new group of friends--the best spots in the metropolitan area. Disparate sites such as the private Tucker car museum (my personal favorite) and the National



ALRI Members Visit Tucker Museum

Firearms Museum compete with more pastoral settings such as President Lincoln's Cottage and the Meadowlark Garden as tours go farther afield than the usual tourist haunts.

Special Events' initial claims to fame were the public lectures offered at Arlington's Central Library. Classified by ALRI as Meet the Author/Speaker and listed on the library website as "Author Talks," these lectures are arranged in conjunction with library staff to ensure proper publicity and facilities management.

Longtime Special Events committee member Andrea Vojtko has had a hand in coordinating many of these co-sponsored lectures. She sees them as serving a social as well as educational need. All programs held at the library are necessarily open to the public, which has actually benefitted ALRI in that

*(Special Events continued on page 10)*

## Annual Meeting Will Be June 8

June for ALRI means Annual Membership Meeting time. This year's meeting will be on Friday morning, June 8, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. Free parking is available on the community center lot and on the street.

The Membership Committee will have coffee and pastries ready to be enjoyed beginning at 9 a.m. Business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at noon. On the agenda: election of the ALRI board for 2012-13, overview and vote on the organization name change, state of the institute, ALRI's 10-year

anniversary and a look at courses for the fall term.

*Our bylaws require a quorum of the membership voting, either by absentee ballot or physically present, to validate the election of the Board of Directors. This year the absentee ballot will also include the opportunity to support or reject the Board's decision to change ALRI's name to "Encore Learning." The ballots are being sent via first class mail to all current members and should be delivered in house by mid-May. A postage-paid return envelope is enclosed.*

*(Annual Meeting continued on page 8)*



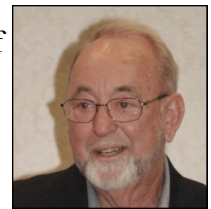
## President's Note

The spring 2012 term was a banner one. ALRI membership rose to 747, breaking our previous record. We came close to breaking the course enrollment record of 700. A new club was formed – Russian Conversation – and our other seven clubs remain active with committed followings.

As we knew was going to happen, Arlington Public Schools' lease on the Clarendon Education Center (CEC) expires in 2012. There has been discussion of co-location of various APS units, including the Adult Ed group, as well. It remains to be seen just how this will work out for ALRI.

A working group composed of Jack Royer, Joan Bertrand, Carolyn Gosling, Dick Juhnke, Mildred Patterson, Steve Spangler and Marjorie Varner has been working intently for the past year on developing a new name for ALRI. After the task force ensured that we could legally use various names, ALRI's Executive Committee recommended to the board in November 2011 that ENCORE LEARNING be accepted as the organization's new name. The board voted in favor of the recommendation at the January 2012 meeting. All current members will have the opportunity to vote on the board's decision at the annual election of board members. I personally hope all will concur.

We are quickly coming up on September's tenth anniversary of ALRI's existence. Are you interested in participating in an anniversary celebration? Planning is just beginning, and ideas for this occasion are welcome. People willing to assist in the planning are needed to ensure that the function is well-attended and celebrates all of ALRI's accomplishments over its busy first decade.



— John Sprott

## REBRANDING EFFORT MOVES FORWARD

Following on a series of communications to members over the past year that provided the rationale for changing ALRI's name and kept members up to date on progress, an article in the fall 2011 newsletter provided an update and overview of ALRI's rebranding efforts. It noted that the ALRI board would soon be voting on a change to our name. That vote took place at the January 20 board meeting, when the board officially opted to change the organization's name from "Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute" to "Encore Learning."

The membership will now be asked to ratify the Board's decision at the annual meeting on June 8. The ballot will list, as always, the nominees seeking election to the board, but it will also put the organization's proposed name change up for a membership vote. Included with the meeting agenda will be a one-page

statement once again outlining the rationale for the change and the procedures that were followed leading up to the ballot. Each member's vote, whether by absentee ballot or in person, is important.

In the meantime, with pro bono help from the Reingold public relations firm and the Mason Center for Social Entrepreneurship's Social Venture Consulting program, the Working Group on Rebranding is pushing ahead on other needed tasks such as redesign of the web site, graphic design standards, and the potential use of social media. We hope to be able to launch the new brand at our tenth anniversary celebration this fall.

—Jack Royer



## Ogle Moving to



Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) and long-time teacher of popular ALRI courses, is retiring and moving to Colorado later this year. He has been with NVRPA for more than 27 years. ALRI members wish him and his family well and thank him for his sixteen semesters of sharing with us his knowledge of Arlington's geology and biology, as well as the influence of human history on our local environment.



Martin and his wife, Lisa, and three-year-old twins Cyrus and Linnea, are moving to Louisville, Colorado, near Boulder. He is not sure what opportunities will develop, but it could be a new position or a business. For the summer they will be at a site

newly acquired by the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES), in a remote place in the Rocky Mountains, about 45 minutes from the nearest town. The Ogles will be unofficial land stewards, keeping non-native plants controlled while maintaining some of the buildings. Martin's expertise will be directed to helping ACES brainstorm ways to use the land for educational and practical purposes.

Reflecting on the growth of the NVRPA over the years, Martin notes the success of focusing Potomac Overlook Regional Park on energy and sustainability. "The park and nature center are "a place where a wide variety of disparate groups and ideas in Arlington can come together," he says, "and the park can be a demonstration and testing site, a catalyst and an educational location for these kinds of ideas."

Martin has also worked to develop research and programs on the Gaia theory, which is the scientific idea of earth as a living system. "It is an idea that has been at the outskirts of science for about 30 years," he says, "but now is becoming textbook science."

His advice to ALRI members is to enjoy life with our families and friends while thinking of ourselves as a part of an integrated environment. Find ways to reduce energy and resource consumption, he suggests, and spend time outside enjoying the living planet. Remember Potomac Overlook as a venue and



source of programs for both basic learning and for entry into more adventurous outdoor activities.

Martin's memories of his ALRI classes are of "nice folks and interesting conversations." He is amazed that the weather was so good over the years that only two or three classes ever had to be cancelled. He recalls that two of his classes sighted a cooper's hawk and a pileated woodpecker at almost the same location on Theodore Roosevelt Island—and that once the hawk was chasing the woodpecker.

Our thanks to Martin Ogle for his generous contributions of time and expertise, and for making so many ALRI members believers in an integrated environment.

— Mary Crosby



**Martin Ogle**

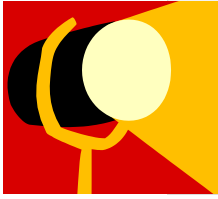
Photograph by Lisa Luo.

*Editor's Note: Mr. Ogle was presented with the first annual Arlington Green Patriot Award by GMU at the Earth Week Community Fair on April 22, 2012. The award recognizes an individual, business or organization that exemplifies sustainability in more than one aspect of their recent life or operations to better civic life in Arlington. Kudos to Martin! It was recognition well deserved.*

### Give the Gift of ALRI Membership

**In celebration of ALRI's tenth anniversary, our membership committee is offering a new program. If you know someone who would enjoy taking ALRI classes and is retiring, then why not buy that person a one-year membership to ALRI? Your gift is your tax deduction; the gift recipient gets to know about ALRI classes and special events. Everybody wins!**

**The ALRI gift program details will be available soon. Send questions and suggestions to the staff at [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org) or call 703-228-2144.**



## SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS

### Cóilín Owens: That's With an Irish Accent



Professor, author, tour guide—these are the avenues Dr. C il n (pronounced Co-leen) Owens has pursued in his adult life to bring the literature, history, drama, and culture of his native Ireland to students in American universities, ALRI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Fairfax, and the Smithsonian. Dr. Owens taught “Five Irish Classics” for ALRI’s spring term.

Now retired, he spent 29 years teaching at George Mason University, although he ended his time there helping to administer the university’s very large English department. His greatest challenge during those years was learning how to teach students to write expressively and read carefully. More than half his work as a college professor was taken up with what he calls “general education.”

Dr. Owens has a particular passion for the works of James Joyce, whom he considers Ireland’s greatest writer. He loves Joyce’s works not only for their excellent writing, but also because he feels an affinity for the author’s art and language. He shares the same ideas and values as Joyce, along with a similar social background.

Dr. Owens has published two books about Joyce and is working on a third. Each is a historical and stylistic study of some of the author’s early works. The purpose is to place the action of Joyce’s stories in the historical moment in which they are set and to provide the mythical/folkloric point of view for each work. Because the world has changed so much in the century since Joyce wrote, his writings need more explanation for current-day readers. The works are very complex, and their meanings, especially in the early stories, are not as obvious as they seem to be.

In addition to teaching Irish studies, Dr. Owens has taught the Irish language to several hundred students, both privately and at Catholic University. Irish is an especially challenging language in which very few achieve any real facility, he says. Those few tend to be from the intelligence community, have often already mastered other complex languages, and usually have a gift for languages, he notes.

Although he enjoys his scholarly research and writing, Dr. Owens finds that teaching at ALRI provides him the opportunity to take a break and enjoy the “performance aspect” of teaching. He has also led one tour to Ireland and will lead another for OLLI in the fall, again taking travelers to sites associated with Irish history and culture.

— Peggy Higgins

### Surjit Mansingh: Giving ALRI the Best of Both Worlds

Surjit Mansingh debuted at ALRI this spring with “India After Gandhi,” a course that filled quickly, then was moved to a larger classroom and filled up again! She brings a unique perspective to teaching Americans about post-independence India: having decided with her American husband (also a scholar of Indian history) to raise their children in a truly bicultural fashion, they made a series of career choices that shuttled them continuously between India and the United States, giving Mansingh a depth of knowledge about the U.S. that enables her to bring home to her students both the parallels and the differences between the two countries.



(Instructors continued on page 5)

*(Instructors continued from page 4)*

Her lectures are enriched by her excitement at having witnessed, first-hand, the dramatic changes that have occurred in India during her lifetime: hearing Nehru speak on the need for change, and seeing how a dam provided irrigation that turned a desert into fertile fields, to cite just two examples.

Mansingh did not start out as a teacher. After obtaining her BA and MA degrees in history from Delhi University (she later was awarded a PhD in International Studies from American University), she began her career in the Indian Foreign Service, where her postings included a stint in Washington. But in her heart, Mansingh always knew that teaching was her passion – one first awakened as an 11-year-old, when the nuns at her school asked her to help teach her fellow students.

Her teaching posts in India included Lady Sri Ram College, an all-women's college in New Delhi, a Visiting Professorship at Kerala University, and the prestigious, all-graduate Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she was professor and chair of its Centre for International Politics. After teaching at other American and European universities and authoring many books and papers on foreign relations and Indian history, she is currently an adjunct professor at American University's School of International Service.

Though new to ALRI, Dr. Mansingh has taught several times at AU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Asked for her reaction to teaching those of us of a certain age, she says it's the most ego-boosting experience she's had. Older students "are so much more experienced and know so much about the world," she adds. "They're highly motivated—they're there because they want to be."

— Dick Juhnke

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## Jud Heriot: Teaching Common Sense About Economic Issues



Retired economist Jud Heriot believes a good teacher must be able to tell a good story, and he's found a story to tell.

What happened in 2007-08 – the great economic downturn – will influence our lives for years, he believes, and that story needs to be told in ways that people will understand. So Heriot did the ground work for creating a course to explore the downturn and its aftermath. He read up-to-date texts in macro-economics, books on globalization, articles in the press and reports from think tanks.

But he didn't want to give his course, "Understanding the Economic Issues of Our Time," to just anyone. He looked into continuing education venues and approached ALRI. "There's a big difference between teaching students who want to be there and teaching those who have to be there," he said.

Rather than drawing complicated graphs and charts as a way to teach what happened in the downturn and where the economy may go, Heriot prefers the narrative. "You have to get behind it, relate to it," he says. "Economics is about people, how they make choices and react to things. Some economists concentrate on the technical side and seem to forget that." He also believes in class participation. When his class filled to its maximum of 30, he rejected a request to add more students because he believed a larger class size would curtail the interaction.

Heriot developed his passion for the human, dynamic side of economics as an undergraduate. After serving in the Marines in Vietnam, he went back to school for graduate degrees. Heriot spent three years as an economic analyst at the CIA and many years with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Inter-American Development Bank in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The most significant part of his career: participating in the economic program that helped hold El Salvador together during its civil war.

Will he teach again? There's a good possibility. He's always on the lookout for a new adventure, and depending on the economy's path, he may have to modify the theme.

— Jody Goulden

*(Instructors continued on page 6)*

(Instructors continued from page 5)

## Ed Cohen: A Man of Many Words

Two books read at different times in his life sparked ALRI instructor Ed Cohen's enduring interest in linguistics. The first, Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Gold Bug," attracted him to cryptography when he was a teen-ager in Brooklyn. Later, during his first of two Foreign Service assignments to Athens between 1963 and 1967, he read *Kon-Tiki* and found curious similarities between the Polynesian words in Thor Heyerdahl's chronicle and the Greek language he heard around him.



Thus began a life-long fascination with the Austronesian languages of the Pacific, which resulted in Cohen's writing *Fundamentals of Austronesian Roots and Etymology*, a 1999 book that corrects previously held academic assumptions about those languages.

Cohen's description of his professional working life reveals an intense interest in language and in communicating with others. He hoped to become a journalist after leaving the army, but in the 1950s when jobs in the newspaper world proved elusive, he worked for a year for the Turkish Information Office in New York City, writing their travel brochures and other English-language materials, and then took the Foreign Service exam.

He began his career in that service in 1956; his first foreign assignment was to the U.S. consulate on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls in 1959. He later served in Bermuda, Greece, Bangladesh (at that time East Pakistan), Ecuador, Sweden, and Greece again. Between postings abroad Cohen had a variety of assignments in the Department of State. After his second posting in Greece he was a Diplomat-in-Residence at Old Dominion University. He then served as an examiner of applicants for the Foreign Service before retiring in 1995.

Cohen's first course for ALRI, "Linguistics: A Historical Detective Story" this spring, has coincided with his preparations for a June trip to Bali where he will deliver a paper on the connections between the Quechua language of western South America and the Austronesian family of languages. He says he is ready for the raised eyebrows and pointed questions of the academic linguists he will meet in Bali. An autodidact, Cohen is convinced that he has overwhelming proof that his theories on the links between the languages are correct.

When not on the trail of connections among languages, Cohen collects and listens avidly to traditional jazz. His favorite musicians include Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, and Fletcher Henderson.

Cohen and Elly Kempler will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary later this year. They have two married daughters, each with two sons.

— Mildred Patterson



## Travel Club Explores Spain

When the travel club sent out an invitation for members to join a Grand Circle Travel trip to Spain's Costa Del Sol in February 2011, I was one of the first to sign up (my fifth trip with ALRI Travel

Club!). Six of us took this wonderful trip.

Our home base in Spain was our own studio apartment in Torremolinos, situated on a seaside promenade with a magnificent view of the beach and Mediterranean Sea. We were a short walk from shopping, the train station, and excellent local restaurants, where we had vouchers for our dinners each night. In the hotel we frequently heard interesting lectures on such topics as the Spanish Civil War and Franco, the history of Spanish dancing,

and how to make sangria (drinking it was a bonus). We saw several shows with high-energy, sexy Flamenco dancing that set our hearts pounding.

Day trips took us to Malaga, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso; to the breathtaking cliffside town of Ronda; to Granada and the Alhambra, a most beautiful World Heritage site; to Mijas, the lovely seaside resort town where we rode in a donkey cart; to Salinas for a home-hosted lunch; and to Gibraltar, the famous rock perched at the entrance to the Mediterranean. Visiting this self-governing British territory



(Spain continued on page 8)



# Spring Semester Recap



GMU's Founders Hall was buzzing with excitement on Saturday morning, February 4, as ALRI members and their guests swarmed through the lobby, making their way to the spring Course Preview in this new building's ground floor reception rooms.

The last ALRI course preview held at GMU had been back in spring 2008. The changes since then were readily apparent: granite floors and sleek elevators replace the carpeting and wheezy escalators of the "Original Building," which remains mothballed next door; extensive glass walls along the lobby open the new building to the plaza and Fairfax Drive; an abundance of informal seating lets visitors and students relax in comfort before and after entering the presentation space. As a bonus for this special occasion, GMU opened the hitherto off-limits Founders Hall garage to ALRI and even provided a discounted rate for those interested in parking out of the elements and within a few steps of the event.

ALRI President John Sprott opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the more than 170 attending. Next up was Lee Nash, co-chair of the Academic Programs committee, and although Lee did not single out his committee members for adulation, those in the know were aware that the range and depth of the spring course lineup was a result of their collective efforts. The Membership committee laid a delicious spread of dainty finger foods and coffee, which disappeared quickly thanks to the bigger than expected crowd. In the anteroom, Special Event and Club information tables drew newcomers while ALRI staff dispensed ad-

vice on parking, course registration and membership renewal.

However, the *pièce de résistance* of any course preview is the arrival of the instructors. Seventeen of them presented enticing snippets of the lectures to come, which persuaded many in the audience to fill in their course registration forms immediately or mark their course catalogs for online registration the following Monday morning. Accordingly, registration for the spring semester proved brisk at 10 a.m. on February 6. Global Hot Spots sold out in minutes; Economic Issues and Linguistics Detective Story followed in short order. Six courses sold out within an hour, and 11 eventually filled, while 16 of the remaining open courses had enrollments of eight to 50 students.

Academic Programs has another stellar lineup of courses in the works now for the fall semester, including three new history courses from veteran instructors Schorrenberg, Stone, and Wukitsch (the Crusades!); two offerings from Lesley Lee Francis covering her grandfather Robert Frost and Spanish dramatic literature; repeats of some past sellouts (Notable Court Cases, anyone?); and, of course, the new courses that make every ALRI heart bump with desire.

The fall Course Preview is tentatively scheduled for September 8. Details will appear in the fall course catalog members will receive in early August.

— Marjorie Varner

***"...the pièce de résistance of any course preview is the arrival of the instructors"***

*Editor's Note:* Arlington Public Schools is moving several of their support services and programs, including the Adult Ed program, to the Sequoia building near the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Route 50 in late December 2012. However, plan on ALRI courses continuing at the CEC this fall. Our next newsletter should provide details on how ALRI will be affected by the APS co-location in 2013.

*(Annual Meeting continued from page 1)*

Signed absentee ballots must be received in the ALRI office by Wednesday, June 6, to be counted.

The nominating committee, chaired by Don Schlichtmann, has nominated the following members to fill the four open slots on the Board:

Academic Programs Co-Chair – Bernie Alter

Bernie spent 31 years as a Foreign Service Officer at the Department of State, primarily in Consular Affairs. He has been an ALRI member since 2006 and has been a member of the Academic Committee for five years.

Membership Co-Chair – Bob Bemben

Bob served as Director of Contracting for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He has been an ALRI member for five years and has served as co-chair of the Class Aides Committee.

Membership Co-Chair – Ed Rader

Ed spent most of his federal career at the Pentagon, working for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) where he provided contract, finance and research support. He has been an ALRI member for two years and has served as a class aide several times.

Publications Co-Chair – Mary Crosby

Mary retired from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry where she was the Deputy Executive Director and Director of Government Affairs for 25 years. She has been an ALRI member for six years and has volunteered as a class aide.

Also on the ballot will be the following incumbents seeking re-election to one-year terms:

President: John Sprott

Vice President: Jack Royer

Vice President: Michael Morton

Secretary: Arthur Gosling

Treasurer: Henry Brown

Registrar: Fred Fagerstrom

Academic Programs Co-Chair: Lee Nash

Class Aides Chair: Carolyn Gosling

Community Advisory Council Chair: Richard Barton

Information Technology Chair: Stephen Spangler

Publications Co-Chair: Mildred Patterson

Special Events Chair: Earle Young

A HUGE THANK YOU to retiring co-chairs Joan Bertrand and Karen Cavanaugh of the Membership Committee and Richard Juhnke of the Publications Committee. The time and hard work you put into your committees are greatly appreciated.

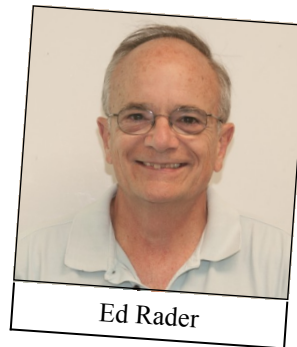
— Marti Conlon



Bernie Alter



Bob Bemben



Ed Rader



Mary Crosby

*(Spain continued from page 6)*

seemed as if a time machine had dropped us in London, only with much better weather. There are wild Barbary apes living freely on the rock. Sometimes tourists do crazy things, and on this trip, I allowed a Barbary ape to perch briefly on my head! Made a great picture, but it was scary to have a 30-pound animal on top of me—and it took several days to get rid of the smell.

We took one two-day overnight excursion to Seville and Cordoba, important since the Roman era and the heart and soul of Andalucía. Cordoba's fabulous mosque/cathedral impressed us all. Our next overnight trip took us by ferry to exotic Morocco. Tangier was a colorful, loud, noisy and exciting city where we explored the markets, bazaars, shops and kasbahs with our guide and had a delightful dinner at the home of a Berber family.

Before we left, three of us took a bullet train to Madrid for an overnight stay that included visiting three art museums and soaking up the local scene in the Plaza Mayor. And then it was time to go home again. What a cultural experience!

— Marlene Platt



# ALRI at a Glance

## GENERAL INTEREST

- Thursday, May 17** – Arlington's 35<sup>th</sup> Senior Law Day, Arlington Central Library, 1-4 p.m.  
**Friday, May 18** – ALRI Board Meeting, 10 a.m. CEC, Room 308  
**Monday, May 28** – ALRI Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday  
**Tuesday, May 29** – ALRI Volunteer Appreciation Social, 5 – 7 p.m. GMU Founders Hall  
**Tuesday, May 29** – ALRI Begins Summer Office Hours: **Tuesdays and Thursdays only** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Friday, June 8** – ALRI Annual Membership Meeting, 9 a.m. Fairlington Community Center  
**Tuesday, September 4** – ALRI resumes regular office hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

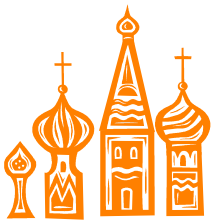
*To register for special events, go to [ArlingtonLRI.org](http://ArlingtonLRI.org) or call 703-228-2144 or email [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org)*

- Friday, May 18** – **National Firearms Museum.** National Firearms Museum. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 20 members.  
**Monday, May 21** – **Civil War Arlington.** Arlington Central Library, 3:00 p.m. No registration required. This event is free; all are welcome.  
**Friday, May 25** – **The Ukulele and Hawaii.** Arlington Central Library, 2:30 p.m. No registration required. This event is free; all are welcome.  
**Tuesday, June 12** – **Asian Treasures X Two.** The Textile Museum, 11:00 a.m. Registration required. This event is free though a small donation is suggested; limited to 20 members.  
**Friday, June 15** – **Hokusai.** The Sackler Gallery, 10:30 a.m. Registration required. This event is free; limited to 20 members.

## 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](mailto:Malia04@comcast.net).  
**Breakfast Club.** Wednesdays, 8:00 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](mailto:kcavanaugh6@verizon.net).  
**Bridge Club.** Monthly on an irregular schedule in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at [fosterbf@aol.com](mailto:fosterbf@aol.com)  
**Cinema Club.** Monthly on an irregular schedule. Contact Leanne Peters at [peterslp@aol.com](mailto:peterslp@aol.com) or Janice Yeadon at [jnyeadon@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 p.m. 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](mailto:sharon1006@verizon.net).

## RUSSIAN CLUB FORMS



ALRI member Mrs. Helen Getter is interested in forming a Russian Conversation club. The purpose is for Russian speakers to discuss books and current events and listen to music in a very social and relaxed atmosphere. Members will also enjoy Russian movies and poetry and share Russian food.

Informal meetings at members' homes will take place every two weeks until the club is established and members can set a new schedule. Initially, meetings will begin at 2 p.m. on the day of the week most convenient to all.

The club is open to ALRI members who would like to maintain their Russian language skills (or are even a little rusty). For more information, call Helen Getter at 703-820-7246.

— Margie Teed

*(Special Events continued from page 1)*

many Arlingtonians first discover the organization as a result of attending a library lecture. Often ALRI members make up the bulk of the audience that fills the auditorium. The symbiosis is not lost on Andrea. “The library gets better turnouts due to our members,” she says, “and we get meeting space we could not get otherwise, along with parking.”

Andrea hopes ALRI members will continue to feed the committee their ideas for lectures—and their personal connections to potential lecturers. One such serendipitous relationship was that of committee member Karin Price to one of the authors of the Pulitzer Prize winning book *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*.

What kind of special event would interest *you*? Committee chair Earle Young urges all ALRI members to bring suggestions to the committee via the ALRI staff or to join the committee in its meetings generally held on the third Monday each month at Arlington Central Library. Most meetings begin with a presentation of various event ideas floated by members, which the committee then vets and schedules. When considering repeat functions, the committee reviews previous attendance and popularity.

Each scheduled event is assigned a coordinator from the committee. It’s his or her job to make the external arrangements with venues and speakers and to prepare the internal documents that allow ALRI staff and volunteers to promote the event via the online calendar and email reminders. The coordinator also contacts registrants prior to the big day and then attends – or in some cases leads – the event.

Most ALRI tours are free but limit the number of registrants. Some events, such as performances by the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra and the Alexandria Choral Society, require payment at the door. Others, such as open rehearsals at the Kennedy Center and the upcoming ukulele and Hawaii performance at Arlington



Arlington Central Library

Central Library, are free. Details for each event are listed on the ALRI website under Special Events and in an abbreviated form in this newsletter on page 9.

ALRI’s website also provides online special event registration, which allows members to secure their space when it is convenient to them – perhaps at mid-



Lincoln’s Cottage

night when the mood strikes. The event registration system requires only first and last name and ALRI membership current through the event date; pop-up windows provide immediate notification of acceptance or placement on a wait list. Those without access to computers or who prefer to have someone else’s fingers do the walking may phone or email the ALRI staff with their event registration requests. In all cases, only members may apply to attend the events requiring registration. Members who register and then find they’ll be unable to attend an event are strongly urged to cancel their registration by phone, email or the special event registration page so that someone on the wait list can take their place.

Marya Rowan, a Special Events committee member since 2003, often serves as coordinator for art-related tours. Her enthusiasm for the rich abundance of art exhibits locally available bubbles over—and is reflected on the ALRI Special Events calendar. Each month finds Marya taking a small group, usually 20 or fewer, to yet another corner of culture: the museums around the Mall, but also the Corcoran, the Shakespeare Library, the National Portrait Gallery, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Even when a museum offers docent-led tours, she researches the exhibits in advance just in case she needs to serve as an impromptu tour guide or a member requests supplemental information. Before each event, Marya contacts the registered members with detailed instructions for transportation options, usually suggesting Metro given the tough parking situation in the District. After gathering at the appointed meeting place, the tour takes off in another type of transportation: into time and space and, very often, beauty.

— Marjorie Varner

We're proud to announce the newcomers below, who joined ALRI in the six months between Oct. 14, 2011 and Apr. 11, 2012. Welcome aboard!

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Cynthia Adcock  
Joe Adcock  
Mike Barnes  
Sybil Bedner-Ostrowski  
Gary Belair  
Jennifer Bellini  
Carole Bogart  
Pat Bradley  
Shirley Brown  
Judy Brussell  
Lynda Carlson  
Marilyn Carney  
Julia Carr  
Jan Chapman  
Adrienne Chute  
Ed Cohen  
Toni Coleman  
Jack Cornish  
Julie Cross-Cole  
Rob Dolce  
Agnes Dubberly  
Michael Finger  
Joe Gavin  
Catherine Goldschmidt  
Sherry Grossman  
Ginny Hammell  
Jill Hanna  
Bill Hanson

Claudia Harkins  
Marilyn Hayes  
Knox Hayes  
David Holland  
Richard Johnson  
Karen Kendra  
John Kennedy  
Jill Kennedy  
Joe Keyes  
Joan Leonard  
Diane Lewis  
Anne Lewis  
Jeff Lovern  
Eric Lundstrom  
Maryellen Magnier  
Gretchen Martin  
Gail Massot  
Kathi McGraw  
Kris McLaughlin  
Mary Jo Metzler  
Richard Miller  
Dorothy Miller  
John Milliken  
Bill Moore  
Wayne Moore  
Sheila Moore  
Michele Nalls  
Rhoda Nary

Paul O'Day  
Rose Mary Padberg  
Peyton Palmore  
Noreen Quill  
Erik Rasmussen  
Barbara Remington  
Curt Ritter  
John Roche  
Nancy Roche  
John Saracco  
Richard Schaefer  
Danny Schaffer  
Barbara Schulman  
Ken Setter  
Connie Shelton  
Kathleen Stemplinski  
Jean Stickles  
Cheryl Thiele  
Michelle Trahan  
Sharyn Tully  
Claudia Vandermade  
Jari Walsh  
David Walters  
Corinne White  
Bob White  
Pat White  
Jeanne Wilson Smith  
Jim Yocum

## Staff Corner

Donna Banks, our administrator, continues to work from our third floor office in the Clarendon Education Center (CEC) while Marjorie Varner, executive director, operates from GMU's Truland Building. Fall through spring, members may drop in for assistance from Donna at the CEC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays or call to make an appointment with Marjorie at GMU. From June 15 through Labor Day, the ALRI staff will offer **summer office hours** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and



Thursdays at the CEC only. Please check the calendar on our website for specific closure dates. To reach the staff, phone 703-228-2144 or email [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org) until otherwise notified.

— *Marjorie Varner*

### ALRI Newsletter

A publication of the

#### Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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**Annual Meeting**  
**June 8**  
**Fairlington Community Center**  
*Details page 1*

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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."

### **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