



ENCORE LEARNING Newsletter

www.EncoreLearning.net

Spring 2013
Volume 10, Issue 1

Ten Years of Growth and Success

Encore Learning members marked the past and toasted the future on Saturday afternoon, February 2, at the organization's tenth anniversary celebration in George Mason University's Founders Hall. President John Sprott reminded the appreciative crowd of well-wishers that Encore Learning began as the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI) in 2002. He praised the vision of Arlingtonians John McCracken and Janice Gentry, whose initial efforts helped launch the organization's first batch of 19 courses offered to 120 members. Sprott marveled at the thriving state of the organization that now boasts 750 members, an average of 30 courses each semester, three or four special events each month, eight special interest clubs, and a new name, logo and tagline. Diligent, creative work on the part of Encore Learning's volunteer members, he said, made it all happen these first ten years.

Anniversary party attendees who underscored the role that Encore Learning is playing in Arlington's educational and cultural life included GMU's Jennifer Gantt and Rob Smith, Arlington County Board members Jay Fisette, Mary Hynes and Chris Zimmerman, Arlington School Board member James Lander, former State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, current State Senator Barbara Favola and Commonwealth's Attorney Theo Stamos. The highlight of the afternoon came when Fisette and Whipple surprised President Sprott with special proclamations issued by the Arlington County Board and the Virginia General Assembly, respectively. The proclamations hailed what Sprott had been too modest to mention: his presidency's major contribution to the outstanding success of Encore Learning.

The celebration followed Encore Learning's spring course preview (see page 4) that morning in an adjoining room. In addition to the serious remarks, there was live music by a GMU student jazz duo—and abundant conviviality. A delicious buffet lunch and cake enhanced the festive atmosphere as members mingled with other guests. Co-chairs Sharon Bisdee and Joan Carter presided over the congenial, easy-going event. The final touch: "goodie bags" given out to departing attendees. The cheerful blue bags bearing Encore Learning's tagline "Expand Your World" each contained a variety of useful and fun items, including a pocket flashlight and a working yo-yo.

Commenting to a reporter from the *Sun Gazette*, President Sprott captured both the last ten years and the future of Encore Learning: "The focus remains on promoting life-long learning and personal growth."

— Mildred Patterson



James Lander, Mary Margaret Whipple, John Sprott, Jay Fisette





President's Note

Welcome to SPRING! Our new name, Encore Learning, was officially launched on February 2nd at the spring course preview, followed by the tenth anniversary celebration. Both events were very well attended as described in related articles in this newsletter. I was honored that the Arlington County Board and the General Assembly of Virginia issued commendations on my ten years as your president. On receiving the awards I said, and believe, that they were recognizing the value of Encore Learning and the work of the many volunteers who created a viable organization that has grown into the significant educational and social role it now has in our community. This role will, I believe, become more firmly implanted in the years to come. My thanks to all of you who have made Encore Learning a success.

The Nominating Committee is now in the process of developing the slate of candidates for board positions to be voted on at the annual meeting of members in June. If you are interested in serving on the board, or know someone who might be, please contact the office.

Enjoy your spring courses.

— John Sprott



Staff Corner

By now, every member should have opened at least one email from Encore Learning sent via our new email communication system, Constant Contact.

This new system allows us to quickly send messages out to the entire membership from any computer, at any time. We can monitor the overall “open rate” for each email we send, as well as keep track of individual “bounced” messages.

It also provides a way for you to opt out if you don't wish to receive email notices from us, but think twice before you click that button. We use the new system for all special event calendar updates, policy notices, course registration reminders and course schedule changes, membership meeting and social announcements, plus occasional urgent weather-related announcements such as March's “Snowquaster” shut-down. Please note that your individual course registration and membership renewal confirmations and notifications are sent separately.

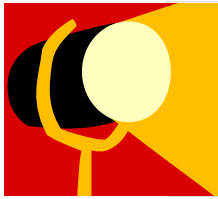
Constant Contact doesn't slice bread, but it is a huge improvement over our previous method. Although there was a bit of a learning curve to master the new software, we quickly got up to speed. You may have noted the colorful border and bits of tiny writing surrounding our usual missive to you. Hopefully the new look will be an easy way to identify genuine Encore Learning news items. ***Please avoid opening emails from any source labeled ALRI.***

Administrator Donna Banks is now working from Encore Learning's space at Arlington Public School's Syphax Education Center (aka the SEC). Located at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington VA 22204, our glass-wrapped office building is across the street from Arlington County's Human Services Center; together with a third building, they form Sequoia Plaza. Don't let our postal address fool you, though. The buildings are set well back from the “main” Washington Blvd.; try using 100 S. Uhle St. as a street address to find the SEC building on your GPS or Google Map.

There is free parking in the garage attached to the SEC and a small café inside. The ground floor welcome center is the place to start if you are visiting the building for the first time or dropping by to pick up class aide materials. Staffed by friendly APS employees from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, the welcome center allows Encore Learning to leverage our part-time office hours more efficiently. Donna's desk is located in the restricted access area of the building, so please call ahead if you need to meet with her.

Executive Director Marjorie Varner's office recently moved to Founders Hall on George Mason University's Arlington campus. Both Donna and Marjorie can be reached at Info@EncoreLearning.net and our main phone line is still 703-228-2144. Office hours at the SEC remain 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday. If you call or email outside those times, we will get back to you as soon as we return. Please check the calendar on our website for holiday closures.





SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS



Jean Moore: A Novel Approach To Teaching

For the past three years, Jean Moore has brought an unexpected approach to her lectures in “Notable Court Cases,” an Encore Learning course in which six attorneys illuminate six controversial trials. Given the freedom to select the cases she presents, Moore has sought out old trials she finds intriguing: those of Lizzie Borden, accused of murdering her parents in 19th century Massachusetts; Jeanne D’Arc, tried for heresy in 15th century France; and Bruno Hauptmann, accused of kidnapping the young son of aviator Charles Lindbergh.

Her presentation of each case is a dramatic, first person retelling from the perspective of one or more people directly or indirectly involved in the events surrounding the trial.

Moore likes this first person format because it allows her to express the opinions of those whose stories she is telling. Each case has required extensive research. Moore’s biggest challenge is to sort through a myriad of source documents to identify the most credible ones. In controversial cases involving conspiracy theories this can be a daunting task, she notes, but a fascinating one as well.

As an instructor, Moore strives to meet the high standards of Encore Learning’s well educated, sophisticated audiences. Her presentations have been so well received that she has been asked to repeat some of them at the Arlington Central Library in a program co-sponsored with Encore Learning.

Moore enjoyed an extremely successful legal career. She worked in the White House Office of Special Counsel to the President and later at a large private law firm where she did complex financial litigation. Her work took her to Geneva, London, and Moscow as she represented private and public entities from a number of countries claiming compensation from the United Nations for damages arising from Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.

In retirement Moore volunteers her time to help other nonprofit organizations, including ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically), the main food bank for the city of Alexandria. There, as Food Chair, she oversees an all-volunteer effort that distributes 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of food each month to those in need. Moore has found her volunteer work to be “every bit as rewarding” as her career in law, because it has brought her into contact with outstanding people from many different walks of life.

— Peggy Higgins

Bob Stone: Lifelong Civil War Buff Tells All

Bob Stone became interested in the Civil War when he was only six years old. Because his family lived in Fredericksburg, Bob and his friends played in Battlefield Park and started learning about the war from the park rangers.

Meanwhile, he was hearing family war stories from an aunt he describes as an “unreconstructed Confederate,” who gave him a book on the Civil War when his family moved to northern Virginia in 1946. “It was a book edited by Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee’s nephew, a Confederate general who later became Virginia governor,” Stone recalls. Since that book, he’s read more than 2,000 others on the Civil War. He keeps his collection in his basement, carefully logged and shelved.

Stone earned his B.A. in education at West Virginia University, planning to teach high



(Stone continued on page 6)

Preview Attracts Record Crowd

Groundhog Day began early for some 200 Encore Learning members who attended the Spring 2013 Course Preview on February 2. They filled the room at George Mason University's Founders Hall and listened attentively as 23 spring course instructors made their pitches.

With a showman's flair Lee Nash, co-chair of the Academic Program Committee, introduced the speakers, who good-humoredly adhered to his exhortations for brief presentations. The morning moved at a brisk pace, and Lee was able to bring the event to a close promptly at noon. Members were overheard during the break telling friends there were so many good courses this time that they were having trouble narrowing down their choices.



The course preview is clearly a popular Encore Learning tradition, with attendance increasing each semester. The preview also serves to introduce potential new members to Encore Learning's lively atmosphere. In February, Encore Learning enrolled 33 new members, many of whom attended the course preview.

The crowded preview presaged an active first day of registration on Monday, February 4. Global Hot Spots (#412) filled within five minutes of the opening of registration, and Scripture: Faith, Facts or Forgeries (#734) filled within the first hour. By the end of the first day, 28 of the 35 spring courses had met their minimum enrollments. By February 28, the rosters reflected a total course enrollment of 777, an increase of 110 over the same period one year ago.

— Mildred Patterson



Encore Learning at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

- Friday, May 17** – Board Meeting, Syphax Education Center, Room 237
Monday, May 27 – Encore Learning office closed for Memorial Day Holiday
Friday, June 7 – Annual Members' Meeting, Fairlington Community Center, Room 118
August 9-11 – Encore Learning at Arlington County Fair
Saturday, September 7 – Fall Course Preview
Monday, September 9 – Fall course registration begins

SPECIAL EVENTS

To register for special events, go to EncoreLearning.net or call 703-228-2144 or email Info@EncoreLearning.net

- Friday, April 12 -- The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia.** The Sackler Gallery. This event is free. Registration required; limited to 10 members.
Sunday, April 14 – Spring Concert: Gluck, Beethoven, Brahms. The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra at Washington-Lee High School Auditorium. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome.
Sunday, April 21 – Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. All Mozart program at George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Registrants pay the \$15 fee at the meeting place. Registration required; limited to 30 members.
Monday, April 22 – Page One: Inside the New York Times. Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome.
Thursday, April 25 -- The Pre-Raphaelites. The National Gallery of Art, West Building. This event is free. Registration required; limited to 25 members.
Monday, May 20 – Peace Building in Israel/Palestine. Arlington Central Library. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome.

CLUBS

To learn more about a particular club, email Info@EncoreLearning.net or call 703-228-2144, noting which club(s) you are interested in and your information. The appropriate club coordinator(s) will contact you directly.

- Book Club.** Alternating months at Arlington Central Library, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Breakfast Club. Wednesdays, 8 a.m. at La Madeleine at Bailey's Crossroads, intersection of Columbia Pike and Rt. 7 (Leesburg Pike).
Bridge Club. Monthly on an irregular schedule in members' homes.
Cinema Club. Monthly on an irregular schedule at the chosen film.
Current Issues Club. Third Tuesday of every month, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center.
Ethnic Lunch Club. Usually the last Thursday of each month at the chosen restaurant.
Russian Conversation Club. Initially, meetings will take place at 2:00 PM on a day of the week most convenient to interested participants.
Travel Club. Monthly on first Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St., Arlington.

Annual Meeting Planned

Mark your calendar!

When: June 7th, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Where: Fairlington Community Center
Room 118
3308 S. Stafford St.
Arlington VA 22206

Following refreshments, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for 2013-2014. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Don Schlichtmann, Chair; David Rhoad; Jody Goulden; Sarah Gregg; and Stephen Hopper. The group is in the process of making calls to solicit new members of the Board of Directors.

Our bylaws require a quorum of the membership to validate the election of the Board of Directors either by absentee ballot or actual presence. The absentee ballots will be mailed in mid-May and signed ballots must be returned by June 5th.



Give the Gift of Encore Learning Membership

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

Contact staff at Info@EncoreLearning.net or call 703-228-2144.



Look for your fall catalog to arrive in the mail sometime in August.

(Stone continued from page 3)

school math and coach. But those plans changed.

"In our next to last semester we began student teaching," Stone explains. "I hated it."

Fortunately, he was offered a job with Arlington County. From 1960 until his retirement in 1996, Stone moved up the proverbial ladder -- from youth sports, to playgrounds, to all recreation activities, to contracts and budgets, to Health Administrator.

Retirement gave him more time for reading about the Civil War and visiting battlefields, while working part time as a bookkeeper for St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington and the Church of St. Clement in Alexandria.

In 2004, the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute, now Encore Learning, contacted Stone about

teaching a class on the Civil War., so he took another stab at education.

"Teaching adults is wonderful," he found. "They want to be there."

He has been teaching Civil War classes since 2005. All but one, which covered battles in the west, have included a visit to a battlefield. On one such trip to Richmond, Stone met a man whose great grandfather served with the 1st South Carolina Rifles infantry regiment and died at Glendale during the Seven Days' Battles. The man wanted to know exactly where his great grandfather had died.

"That battle was unusual," Stone says. "It was a joint bayonet charge. I was able to show that man within a few feet of where his great grandfather died. He was so overcome with emotion that he collapsed."

— Laura Paul

We are happy to announce the newcomers who joined ALRI in the six months between October 3, 2012 and March 7, 2013. Welcome aboard!

W
E
L
C
O
M
E

Charles Allegrone
Bob Allen
Jan Anderson
Janet Austin
Karen Baker
Bill Blodgett
Barbara Bryant
Ted Calhoun
Beverly Campbell
Ann Cherlow
Rick Cohen
Mary Louise Cohen
Stephanie Conley
Chuck Davenport
Alan Davis
Fran Field
Tom Field
Pat Findikoglu
Jane Fitz-Simmons
Danielle French
Jennifer Frum
Sonni Goffman
Larry Goldschmidt
Liz Hayes
Ross Heasley
Ben Herring
Penny Holland
Michael Hood
Gloria Hurdle

Yuki Imamura
Noreene Janus
Debra Jenkins
Diana Joaquin
Betsy Keenan
Nadine Kelly
Betty King
Carol Krainski
Gail Kutner
Joan Liebman
Nicole Marchant
Steve McGuire
Margo McKay
Samuel Meals
Russell Miller
Karen Miller
Sharon Mondé
John Morland
James Murphy
Penny Newquist
Anita Nolen
Roger Nucho
Pam O'Brien
Susan Parker
William Peters
Dan Pfoutz
Rufus Phillips
Wendy Pohanka
Charles Psychos

Gail Raiman
Cindy Reese
Elizabeth Riedel
Randy Sanger
Trudy Saracco
Mary Scott
Barbara Seaman
Thomas Sefferly
Cheryl Silkwood
Tom Sipusic
Anne Smoler
Kathy Snyder
Jose Sorzano
Ian Stanford
Jim Stanley
Diane Stanley
Marilyn Stewart
Marilyn Taylor
Janet Traister
Bill Tupper
Jane Vergel
Joan Welsh
Larry Werner
Mary Margaret Whipple
Mary Wise
Tom Wise
Catherine Wyler
Sheldon Yuspeh
Doris Yuspeh

Feeling particularly generous?

Encore Learning has two scholarship funds for Arlington high school graduates who will be attending George Mason or Marymount Universities. One fund awards our scholarship annually through the Arlington Community Foundation (ACF); the other has not reached full endowment and is administered by the GMU Foundation. Your donation is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the full extent permitted by law. Please indicate the fund you wish to support.

Encore Learning (ACF) John T. McCracken (GMUF)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Send this form with your check payable to Encore Learning at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington VA 22204.

Encore Learning Newsletter

A publication of

Encore Learning

Write to us: Encore Learning

2110 Washington Blvd.

Arlington, VA 22204

Voice: 703-228-2144

Email: Info@EncoreLearning.net

Website: www.EncoreLearning.net

We welcome your questions and suggestions.

Editor: Marjorie Varner

Writers: Peggy Higgins, Mildred Patterson,

Laura Paul, John Sprott, Marjorie Varner

Proofreaders: Myra Britton, Noreen Quill

Photographers: Marilyn Gaizband, Joe Furgal

Desktop Publishing: Carolyn Gosling,

Margaret Susank

Encore Learning
2110 Washington Blvd.
Arlington VA 22204

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 935

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!
June 7, 2013
Annual Meeting
Fairlington Community Center

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

As a learning organization, Encore Learning 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."

Encore Learning

Encore Learning 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. Encore Learning is supported, governed, and financed by its members. Encore Learning 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