



Connecting....  
People, Community,  
and Knowledge

# ALRI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

## President's Corner

Welcome to new Board members Bob Howe and Joan Reed, co-chairs of the Academic Programs Committee; Gary Lee and Jim Mayer, co-chairs of the Membership Committee; Bill Brannigan, chair of the new Publications Committee; and Ann Wolfe, ALRI Board Secretary. All are on an interim basis pending election to these positions at the annual membership meeting on June 9, 2006.

As the fiscal year draws to a close, I look back with pride at all that has been accomplished by the hard work of so many volunteers. In March we reached a record membership level of 525, including over a hundred new members! This spring term has the greatest number of course registrations to date, and we have more special events scheduled than in prior years with excellent attendance.

Of the record 34 courses offered this spring, 16 are new. Ken McLean, chair of ALRI's Information Technology Support Committee, developed an inter-active, user-friendly, on-line registration and membership data base system, making it easier for members to connect with ALRI for course, special events, and general information. In keeping with ALRI's growth the Board approved a new affiliation with Sunrise Senior Living to offer classes at the beautiful facilities of "The Jefferson." Looking forward, I am engaged in an ongoing effort to find an "affordable home" that will provide additional administrative space and a meeting place where people can work on projects together.

None of these considerable accomplishments came easily. They are the result of ongoing energetic work from many volunteers—many working on several tasks on more than one committee. When you meet a volunteer working on your behalf, let that member know you appreciate his/her efforts.

I especially want to thank Connie McAdam, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, who had to leave the Board in December after the committee had developed a record number of spring course offerings. Also, many thanks to outgoing Board members Sharon Bisdee and Jeanne Sprott. They have been leaders from ALRI's inception, first on the Public Relations Committee and for the past 18 months as co-chairs of the Membership Committee. More recently, Jeanne has also led the team setting up the Publications Committee. ALRI has benefited from their leadership, and we appreciate their willingness to continue to serve on the Membership Committee.

**John Sprott**

## Upcoming ALRI Events

- May 1 Library Lecture  
*William Maxwell:  
A Literary Life*
- May 7 Meadowlark Botanical  
Gardens Tour
- May 12 Hokusai Exhibit  
Sackler Gallery
- May 18 Washington Navy Yard  
Tour
- June 2 Brewmaster's Castle  
Tour
- June 9 ALRI Annual Business  
Meeting
- June 26 Library Lecture on  
Global Warming

## NOTICE

### ANNUAL ALRI BUSINESS MEETING

**DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 9**

**TIME: 9:00 — NOON**

**PLACE: CULPEPPER  
GARDENS SENIOR  
CENTER**

**DETAILS PAGE 2**

## THOSE JAZZY SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special Events Committee continues to bring us new and exciting activities. Reviews from all the events this season have been terrific. Take full advantage of your membership by adding some “special events” to your calendar. Below are details of our upcoming events.

*May 1* - William Maxwell: A literary Life  
Lecture on the longtime fiction editor at The New Yorker.  
3:00 PM. Arlington Central Library. Free and all are welcome.

*May 7* - Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Tour  
Tour of the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and an introduction to the 100+ acre complex and unique native plants collection.  
1:00 PM. Limited to 25 participants. A small donation to the garden is requested.

*May 12* - Hokusai Exhibit  
Docent-led tour of this unprecedented cooperative exhibit by the Sackler Gallery, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. and the Tokyo National Museum of works by Hokusai, the first Japanese artist to become widely known in the West.  
11:15 AM. Sackler Gallery. Free, but limited to 20 registrants.

*May 18* - Washington Navy Yard Tour  
A walking tour of the Washington Navy Yard will explore its history. The tour will include a visit to the US Navy Museum.  
10:00 AM. Free of charge but the tour is limited to 20 participants. Valid photo identification needed.

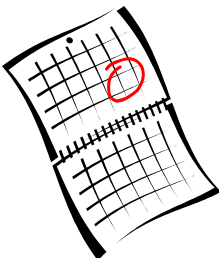
*June 2* - The Brewmaster's Castle Tour  
Docent-led tour of "America's Most Intact Late-Victorian House"  
Built in 1892-94 by German immigrant, local brewer, and philanthropist, Christian Heurich, it is the city's first fireproof home and is a showcase of hand-craftsmanship and modern construction techniques.  
11:30 AM. Registration required. Fee of \$5.00 payable at the door.

More detailed information available at the ARLI web site—  
[www.ArlingtonLRI.org](http://www.ArlingtonLRI.org)

### 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) (“Special Event reservation” in the subject line)

### Mark Your Calendar ■ ALRI Business Meeting ■ June 9



Join us for the annual ALRI business meeting. Our agenda will include electing several new members to the Board of Directors and discussion of business issues. Refreshments will be served at 9 AM. The meeting starts at 9:30 AM and goes to noon. This year the meeting will be held at the Culpepper Gardens Senior Center, 4435 North Pershing Drive. Parking is available on North Henderson Street.

## “Meet the Author Series” Special Event

### W. Ralph Eubanks, author of *Ever is a Long Time*

People who came out on the holiday following a frigid weekend in February were treated to a gripping tale of the CIA-style doings of a little-known agency: the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission. Complete with lists, spying, counterintelligence and betrayal, the Commission’s activities animated the story told by author Ralph Eubanks of his growing up in small-town Mississippi during the Civil Rights era.

Mr. Eubanks, who is Director of Publishing at the Library of Congress, was motivated to write his memoir by the revelations in the Commission’s files declassified in 1998. Raised on his family’s idyllic eighty-acre farm on the edge of Mount Olive in Covington County, Mr. Eubanks could not have known how much his life was circumscribed by the operations of the Sovereignty Commission whose implicit mission was to preserve the racially segregated society. When he discovered that his schoolteacher-mother’s name had made the Commission’s watch list, he felt he had to explore what made Covington County tick. He had to go back there and look at it with the eyes of his youth, recall the childhood scenes and sniff the long-ago atmosphere. This project became his “Journey into Mississippi’s Dark Past”, the subtitle of his book.

The sizeable audience warmed to Mr. Eubanks’ open and engaging manner. They asked questions about his awareness of these events at the time; about the extent or evidence of changes in his hometown since then; about how his mother came to be in the Commission’s files; about the use of codes in the files; about how he now explains these things to his young children.

The author’s research eventually brought him face to face with one member of the Sovereignty Commission -- the former Superintendent of Education in Covington County. To the author’s mild surprise, this man showed no defiance, no remaining pride in his membership on the Commission; only, now that he was at an advanced age, an unabashed, though painful willingness to open up about it all to a stranger. And yes, some hint of regret. **Dawn Elvis**

## WHY I WEAR MY NAME TAG

Having had to wear a security ID badge every day for more than 30 years of government service, I thought one of the joys of retirement would be never to need one again. However, a few years ago when attending a high school reunion, I was quite relieved to see name tags being distributed and worn by nearly everyone. I find the ALRI name tags more akin to the reunion than to the federal workplace.

While use of name tags is appreciated by our host sites that need to readily identify people wandering their halls, my rationale is more self-serving. I admit to occasional difficulty in remembering names and, suspecting that others may be similarly afflicted, am glad to help out by providing easy access to my name, while hoping, of course, for reciprocity.



In addition to offering lifetime learning, ALRI aims to facilitate new friendships. How many people have you attended classes with for six or ten weeks without ever learning their names? How many have you met again a year later in another class or social function and couldn’t remember their names?

I will continue to wear my name tag, but I doubt that my memory will improve. Please help me out here, folks.

**Jack Royer, Vice President**

## WELCOME

### New ALRI Board Officer

Making use of career skills in retirement is Ann Wolfe, ALRI Secretary since January. Ann was introduced to ALRI through the Adult Education catalog. She took four courses last Fall and then began weekly office duties in the ALRI cubicle. Her position on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee requires two meetings per month and concern for both outreach and archival management of Board decisions and procedures.

The newly implemented procedure under which member suggestions are brought to Ann for presentation to the Executive Committee requires her to be an “honest broker,” she says. The need to gather information and describe each suggestion fairly is familiar to her from her work with the Congressional Research Service, which has an ethic of service to all.

She attests that the ALRI courses she’s taken were offered as professionally as those she completed at Marymount in 2000. The one difference she notices – both an advantage and a problem – is the lack of tests, which means some ALRI students may not make sure they’re getting all that is taught! But then she speaks of the grace that comes with maturation, allowing one not to take things too seriously. **Marjie Mayer**

### New Committee Leadership Takes Charge

#### Academic Committee

Bob Howe and Joan Reed are the new co-chairs of the ALRI Academic Committee. They have been in place for a little over a month and will alternate semesters. Bob is already deep into planning the ALRI courses to be offered this Fall and Joan is warming up for the Spring 2007 term. Bob is no stranger to teaching having taught at the South Dakota School of Mines for three years during his 27-year career with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Committee’s functions concentrate on identifying and recruiting instructors, working with instructors to develop appealing course titles and descriptions, and after the course, reviewing student evaluations and starting the whole process over again.

Bob listed the three biggest challenges the Committee faces: 1) putting together a multi-instructor course because each effectively consists of individual small courses; 2) finding instructors who can offer courses that will attract students; and 3) keeping the Committee staffed. “I’d like about twelve members,” Bob said; “That way each can coordinate two or three courses.” **Terence Kuch**

#### Membership Committee

Gary Lee is a man on the move. He joined ALRI just before he retired in July 2004. His wife had told him about a notice she’d seen online in the Arlington adult education bulletin, and Gary knew immediately that he wanted to belong to this organization. He joined the Membership Committee, has worked with the recruitment program, has been a Clubs coordinator, and has helped run the first Clubs meeting in March 2005. He has recently accepted the position of co chair for the Membership Committee; he will soon be joined by fellow co chair Jim Mayer. Clearly, Gary is a firm believer that if you belong to an organization, you need to be actively involved.

Trained as an economist, Gary worked in the International Finance section of the Federal Reserve System. A person of many interests and talents, Gary has been heavily involved in local community theater, as both a performer and a facilitator with British Players. He also serves on their Board of Directors. In addition, he is a vocalist with the LaSalle Dance Orchestra.

Consistent with the purpose and charter of the Membership Committee, Gary plans to focus on introducing people to ALRI through open house events and will continue to promote ALRI at Arlington County functions such as the Arlington County Fair and the Farmers' Market. He believes that connecting with the community at large is vital to both the community and to the Institute. **Chris Morrison**

### IT TAKES A VOLUNTEER...

Ann Kelleran, new Volunteer Coordinator, is not new to volunteering at ALRI. She took her first classes in September 2003. She has served as class aide twice and began working in ALRI's cubicle in September 2004. She also joined the Membership Committee in 2004 and helped with a variety of Committee tasks, including serving as the Committee's "face" by staffing tables at the Open House and Business Meeting. When it comes to recruiting volunteers for ALRI, Ann knows whereof she speaks.

She plans to put her energies to great use in recruiting new volunteers and in ensuring that they and the Committees they serve are good matches. You will see her at the June 9 Business Meeting. Come over and talk to her. You won't be sorry! **Jeannie Sprott**



## Hot Volunteer Opportunities

**Academic Programs Committee** is looking for several volunteers to assist in developing new courses. Heavy workload periods are: April/May and October/November. If you've enjoyed taking the courses, you will love developing them.

**Organization Committee** is looking to identify a person or firm to act as ALRI's legal counsel. As a non profit, we are looking for a pro bono volunteer basis. Tasks are not onerous.

**Publications Committee** is brand new and still seeking volunteers for various positions: Publicity Coordinator, Editors (these are special project editors, e.g., updating the brochure and developing promotional materials) and Writers.

**Special Events Committee** is also seeking more help in developing new special events and in helping to record data for those being offered so that promotional materials can be developed.

**Office Support.** ALRI's Administrator is seeking help to staff the ALRI cubicle. Typical duties are answering the phone and working on the computer. If you smile while talking on the phone; enjoy the challenge of learning new computer skills and can fill a three-hour shift once a week, please sign up. The Administrator's office needs you.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact Ann Kelleran, Volunteer Coordinator, [kellerann@juno.com](mailto:kellerann@juno.com).

**VOLUNTEER TODAY**

## COMMITTEE NEWS



### Academic Programs Committee

The spring 2006 term is well under way. There are 32 active courses with a total enrollment of 498. Two additional courses had to be cancelled, one due to low enrollment and one due to instructor illness.

The committee has begun the process of assembling courses for the fall. Although some popular current courses will be offered again, we are attempting to develop as many new courses as possible in areas in which ALRI members demonstrate an interest. The challenge is to find qualified volunteer instructors who are willing to prepare and present these new courses. We encourage members to recommend people who might be interested in presenting a course in their area of expertise. We can provide assistance in preparing and scheduling the course.

Our committee could also use some additional members. The workload is fairly heavy in April/May and October/November, with limited duties outside those time periods. If you have taken ALRI courses and feel you could assist in developing new courses, please join us. We also want to hear what courses you want and, and even more important, will sign up for. **Bob Howe, Co-Chair**

### Organization Committee

The Organization Committee has seen several of its projects to recent completion. On March 20 ALRI Board's Executive Committee adopted a handbook to provide guidance for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Board meetings. Of particular interest to the membership is the procedure for any member to bring matters to the attention of the Executive Committee by emailing ALRI Secretary Ann Wolfe ([ALRI@ArlingtonRLI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonRLI.org)).

At its March 31 meeting the Board approved an ALRI purchasing procedure as guidance for carrying out ALRI contract policy. For those who expend ALRI funds, it sets forth appropriate procedures for purchasing goods and services and entering into various types of contracts. The goal is to assure that in all cases our revenue received from members will be expended in a responsible manner.

The current task of the Organization Committee is to identify a person or firm to act as ALRI's legal counsel. We contemplate that these services will be provided on a pro bono volunteer basis, since volunteers are the foundation for ALRI's success. The tasks envisioned are not onerous; in ALRI's first three years of operation the need for legal advice or contract review has been minimal. However, it is prudent for ALRI to have this function in place should unanticipated needs occur. If any member can suggest potential volunteers to perform occasional legal services, please contact ALRI volunteer coordinator Ann Kelleran ([kellerann@juno.com](mailto:kellerann@juno.com)). **Jerry Greenwald, Chair**

### Special Events Committee

Most tours the Special Events Team offers are filled soon after they are announced. This response is very gratifying to the Team and stimulates us to find new events as well as repeat successful ones. Events for June include a visit to the historic Brewmaster's Castle in DC and a presentation on global warming at the Arlington County Library.

The Team welcomes your suggestions for future events and your comments on past ones. Please email Special Events Team at [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org) send mail to ALRI, 2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306, Arlington, VA 22201.

Thanks for your interest. **Karin Price, Chair**

*Committee News continues on Page 7*

## Membership Committee

As we relinquish our duties as co-chairs of the Membership Committee we would like to say thanks to the Committee's volunteers for their support during the past year and a half. It has been a challenging time, but together we have accomplished much more than we expected. We're especially proud to report that ALRI has increased from 150 members in its first year of operation to today's total of 525—membership growth due in large part to the efforts of the Committee's hard-working volunteers.

A new members' get-together was held on March 3 at The Jefferson. This social event was successful in terms of both turnout and ambience. Some 31 new ALRI members attended, and several brought along other potential members, including residents of The Jefferson. Many ALRI Board members and volunteers also attended. Special Events mounted an excellent display on upcoming events. Catering was provided by The Jefferson; and the staff kept a nice array of cookies and the like flowing along with coffee and tea.

We expect the number of volunteers needed will continue to increase under the auspices of Ann Kelleran, who has taken on the Membership Committee position of volunteer liaison in charge of the ALRI volunteer program.

Recently Nancy Palmerino, head of the Hospitality Team, explored the availability of several suitable locations for the June 9 ALRI business meeting. She was able to reserve a large space at the Culpepper Gardens Senior Center.

We have had a busy tenure but a fun and rewarding one as well. We recently passed the baton on to Gary Lee, who we feel confident is going to do a great job as head of Membership. We look forward to supporting him as volunteers on the Committee. **Sharon Bisdee and Jeanne Sprott**



## NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As my second anniversary with ALRI approaches this May, I almost laugh when I think of how far we've come. Ken McLean and his team of Information Technology volunteers have ratcheted up our technology level beyond that of any other Lifelong Learning Institute in the nation. Yes, there are occasional kinks to work out, and we can still improve our system to make it more user-friendly, but our online Special Event registration alone has eliminated a mind-boggling number of person-hours. Members have embraced this advance and we are now able to spend more time discussing your issues and making improvements to our procedures.

My job continues to be pleasurable and challenging for me. There's never a dull moment with 70 emails appearing in my inbox over the weekend! I have enjoyed meeting more and more of you. Coordinating classroom equipment and room assignments has given me contact with our many learned instructors as well. I have had a hand in the past four catalogs and at least three newsletters. I feel as if I'm an integral part of your organization, and your appreciation for the work I do for you has filled me with a sense of accomplishment and the desire to make this the best little institute on the East Coast. **Marjorie Varner, Administrator**



## CLUB NEWS



ALRI's special interest clubs are busy organizing events for their members. Come join in! If you're interested in movies, you can meet up once a month with others to see a film. If you're looking for a bridge game, join the Bridge Club. The Current Issues Club meets once a month to consider a topic currently in the limelight.

If you have a consuming interest and would like to engage in it with other like-minded souls, consider starting a club of your own. Contact Bernice Foster at [fosterbf@aol.com](mailto:fosterbf@aol.com) to discuss your ideas.

Here's what the existing clubs have been up to:

### Travel Club

The ALRI Travel Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Langston Senior Center. They enjoy presentations on various parts of the world and share information on trips taken or planned. All ALRI members are welcome. For more information, call Sharon Schoumacher at (703) 522-9014 or email her at [sharon@earthwave.net](mailto:sharon@earthwave.net).

A special trip to Florence and Venice is planned for September 5-14, with Tom Wukitsch as guide. For details contact Jean Moore at (703) 370-4627.

### Cinema Club

If current cinema is your passion, join the Cinema Club, which goes to a movie together once a month on a date chosen to accommodate participants' schedules as much as possible. Recent outings have been for films such as "Transamerica" and "Mémorial of a Geisha." Coming up soon is "Thank You for Smoking." To be included send an email to Judy Yavner at [jyavner@mindspring.com](mailto:jyavner@mindspring.com).

### Current Issues Club

The ALRI Current Issues Discussion Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Lubber Run Community Center.

February's topic was "Reform of Congress," March's was "The Free Press and Clash of Cultures," and April's was "Immigration Reform."

Anyone interested in the group can get more information from Jim Walsh at [walsh22204@aol.com](mailto:walsh22204@aol.com) or (703) 920-1709.

### Bridge Club

The Bridge Club meets once a month on an irregular schedule at the homes of club members to play bridge. Either a meal or a snack is served, with each player paying the host \$5 to offset the cost of food and drink. The coordinator describes the sessions as "very social and probably not ideal for someone who wants to play very serious bridge." If you are interested in joining, please contact Bernice Foster at [fosterbf@aol.com](mailto:fosterbf@aol.com)

### Book Club

Members of the ALRI Book Club discussed *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* at the April meeting. The club meets on the second Monday of every other month from 1:30 to 3 p.m., either at a member's home or in the Arlington Central Library meeting room.

The book selected for the June 12 meeting is *Salt: A World History*, by Mark Kurlansky. We will meet at the Library on Quincy Street, second floor. If you are interested in joining, please contact Marge Alia at [Ma-lia04@comcast.net](mailto:Ma-lia04@comcast.net) and put "ALRI Book Club" in the subject area.

### Ethnic Lunch Club

The Ethnic Lunch Club meets usually on the last Thursday of the month. Recently, club members enjoyed Peruvian food at the Machu Picchu in Falls Church. Future lunches may spotlight Korean and Mexican delicacies. To reach the club coordinator, please call the ALRI general line, choose the clubs option (5) and leave a message for the Ethnic Lunch Club. The coordinator will contact you.



Regina B. Arriaga  
Edward G. Bassett  
Isabel Biberfeld  
Judith L. Blincoe  
Brian Blood  
James B. Bradshaw  
V. Martha Brandt  
William Brannigan  
Connie L. Cerny  
Joan S. Chase  
Robert C. Chase  
Patricia A. Clark  
Linda L. Coleman  
John Comella  
Helen M. Conlon  
Rosemary Coskey  
Sarah Courtney  
Moirra Cowan  
Mary Kay Crowley  
Diane DeVivo  
Kathleen P. Dewey  
Mary L. Dodge  
William B. Dodge  
Dorothy E. Earnest  
Helen F. Fahey  
Andrea C. Falk  
Irene Farkas-Conn  
Frances Feiner  
Madeleine G. Fishkin  
Jeannette Fitzwilliams  
Mary A. Flanigan  
Carol M. Flint  
Christian M. Freer  
Margaret M. Freer

Joyce N. Fuller  
Jeanne E. Gardner  
Judith R. Gerber  
Ronald D. Godard  
Gretl Golter  
Lana I. Gradasoff  
Marjorie G. Griffin  
John J. Guenther  
Jennie Lou Hammerly  
Ellen W. Harland  
Nancy Hart-Gaito  
Anna R. Hauptman  
Betty C. Hill  
Geri Hirai  
Pat M. Holt  
Kathleen R. Hospodar  
Lester F. Jipp  
John D. Kerckhoff  
Janet Kiefner  
Betty A. Kilgore  
Barbara Kreykenbohm  
Terence Kuch  
Jackie Law  
Jane Evins Leonard  
Susan L. Lewis  
Elinor A. Light  
Susan R. Liss  
Charles J. Magyar  
Barbara A. Mastrangelo  
Clifford M. Mastrangelo  
Nancy M. McKay  
Eileen McMurrer  
Anita L. McNamee  
Barbara A. Miller

Mary K. Miller  
Claire B. Milton  
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John O'Brien  
Mary C. Pendleton  
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Eleanor K. Pourron  
Mary Quinn  
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Rosalind B. Whittenburg  
Joan E. Wikstrom

ALRI Welcomes New Members

#### ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

#### Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

Write to us: Adult Education Program/ALRI  
2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306  
Arlington, VA 22201

Voice: 703-228-2144

E-mail: [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org)

Website: [www.ArlingtonLRI.org](http://www.ArlingtonLRI.org)

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#### Power of the Human Mind

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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 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, Elderhostel Network