



ALRI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007
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ALRI CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS!



Joanne and Bob Gibson sign up at the Recognition Corner

In the true spirit of ALRI volunteerism, an ad hoc committee of volunteers chaired by Jeannie Sprott and Sharon Bisdee came together in early March with the goal of creating a celebration of the Institute's fifth anniversary that would not only showcase ALRI's appreciation of its supportive affiliates, volunteers, and members, but also express the pleasure that members have taken in the social, intellectual, and other opportunities ALRI has provided since its inception in 2002.

Ideas were tossed around, and the most promising ones were researched and further developed. In the end, it was decided to have a Recognition Corner where photos would be taken of volunteers

(ALRI Celebration continued on page 3)



ALRI's First Board: Back row (L-R) Matt Adams, Bob Chatten, John Sprott. Front row (L-R) Anne Holmes, Jerry Greenwald, Doug First

Celebration Photos



↑ Frank Wilson, Bill Sullivan, Meg Tuccillo

← Fred Bosco, Bob Walsh, Bob Gibson



Carol Kiranbay and Flo Tanabe



Dawn Elvis, Barbara Sakamoto, Michiyo Masaike, Geri Hirai and others await a chance to sign up for their Recognition Corner photos.

Recognition Corner



Charlotte Gauss and Carolyn Gosling



Additional pictures will be on display at the February Open House.

(ALRI Celebration continued from page 1) and members for use in this issue of the newsletter and for posting at the next Open House in February. ALRI's talented members were asked to lend their personal artwork (paintings, photographs, collages) to be exhibited at the anniversary party. Roving ALRI reporters canvassed the guests with simple questions, such as "How did you hear about ALRI?," "How long have you been a member?" and "What do you enjoy most about the Institute?"



"If I Were a Volunteer" L-R: Ann Wolfe, George Hobart, Judy Andrews, Marjorie Hobart, and Donna Canode (outside the picture was Lee Nash)



Roving reporter Lou Spector with student photographer Annette Lévano conducts interview.

In a departure from the Institute's Costco staples, a caterer was sought to provide food, a band was hired to help set the party mood and, finally, a formal program was developed around the establishment of the John McCracken Scholarship Fund. Guests were greeted with a sleekly designed program of events (again the work of a volunteer on the committee). Looking to provide some homegrown entertainment, a small group of volunteers presented an amusing skit entitled "What I Would Do If I Weren't a Volunteer," and a short film written and produced in ALRI's first filmmaking class was given its first public showing.

The Arlington County Public Schools Career Center provided support in camerawork for the roving reporters and captured the quotes of the guests for this issue of the newsletter. Other volunteer photographers covered the Recognition Corner, formal program, and backdrop.

As master of ceremonies, Jim Mayer presided with flair over the event. ALRI President John Sprott offered recognition and thanks to ALRI's many friends, volunteers, members, and affiliates.

The fifth anniversary committee can be justifiably proud of its work, which involved hundreds of details sorted out over the course of many meetings.



Tom Wukitsch, Charlotte Gauss and Marcia Schmitz enjoy a laugh.



President's Report

The 300 or so members who attended the reception on September 29 seemed to agree it was a perfect way to celebrate ALRI's first five years of success. At the outset we had hoped to reach 250 members for a stable institution. But in just a few months our membership grew to 278--and is now well over 600.

My remarks at the anniversary celebration emphasized the important roles played by Arlington Public Schools (particularly the Adult Education Division), George Mason University, Arlington Parks and Recreation Division's Senior Programs, and Marymount University. Clearly ALRI could not have gotten far without the generous support of these institutions. Just as important, I gave thanks to the many instructors who so generously give of their time and energy to develop and deliver consistently high quality courses for ALRI members.

ALRI's intellectually curious membership, outstanding courses and special events, truly gifted instructors, and deep, broad-based community support are what together make the Institute such a great organization. We couldn't do it without the dedication of our many volunteers: those who serve on our board, recruit members, find and work with our instructors, provide office support, create and mail our publications, and develop and maintain our information and financial systems. I look forward to the next five years, as ALRI continues to evolve and meet the needs of the area's growing 50-plus population.

—John Sprott

JOHN McCracken SCHOLARSHIP FUND

During ALRI's fifth anniversary celebration, President John Sprott presented the first contribution to the new John McCracken Scholarship Fund. Dr. Tom Hennessey, chief of staff to the president of George Mason University, and Dr. Meg Tuccillo, assistant superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, accepted the \$6,000 check as McCracken's widow, Nancy McCracken, their son Matt, and daughter Anne looked on.

The new scholarship, to be administered by the GMU Foundation, honors one of the true gems of the Arlington community. John McCracken was a founding member of ALRI, served on its board of directors, and was a key idea man on the first academic committee. He remained an active member and marketer of the Institute until his death.

The scholarship was developed by the Friends of the Arlington Campus of George Mason University and the Arlington County Board's Joint County/George Mason University Advisory Board in recognition of McCracken's years of exemplary work in Arlington County--particularly in bringing GMU to the Arlington campus--and his long-time support to Arlington Public Schools.



L - R: John Sprott, Paul Ferguson, Tom Hennessey, Meg Tuccillo, Mrs John (Nancy) McCracken, and her daughter Anne and son Matt.

Notes from the Administrator

While our volunteers continue to enjoy our office suite in Room 304 at the Clarendon Education Center, I have moved back to my cozy office on the third floor of the GMU Original Building, room 315. This allows me to support the thirteen classes scheduled this semester at the GMU Arlington campus more directly. It also helps ALRI to reestablish those critical personal ties with our affiliates at GMU. You can still reach me at the ALRI email and phone published in our catalog and on our website: ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org and 703-228-2144. I check messages daily but please remember that office hours are noon to 3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We don't do nights or weekends!

Of note, we have added a general calendar page to our website which lists our special events, committee meetings, and public info such as Open Houses, annual meetings, new member socials, and semester start and end dates. We hope this helps you stay abreast of all ALRI has to offer you. Thank you to those members who have embraced our new technology and are using our online special event registration, membership renewal and course registration. Your efforts allow us to respond to questions, issues and needs beyond the routine.

— Marjorie Varner, Administrator

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS

Consideration is being given to developing a new program format, "Discussion with the Experts." One format idea might involve sessions of 2-3 hours beginning with a presentation by a knowledgeable person followed by an open discussion including the speaker and additional panelists. The program would be scheduled 2-3 times annually with different topics each session.

The topic that has been suggested for the first session is *Global Climate Change: Are our options limited to doing nothing or freezing in the dark? Explore some alternative futures.*

These sessions will be scheduled on Saturdays or a weekday evening. We are looking for your thoughts on length of the sessions and times to hold them. We are especially interested in your suggestions for topics of interest.

Please send your comments to ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org. This is an opportunity for you to provide some great feedback and help us as we try to discover new ways to meet your interests.

Look How Far We've Come in 5 Years!



Special Events: Holiday Music to Museums

You can welcome the holiday season with music, tour the DEA museum and attend lectures on a variety of subjects planned by ALRI members.

There are three ways to register:

- Online – www.ArlingtonLRI.org
- Phone – 703-228-2144 and press “3” for Special Events
- Email – ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org (Use “Special Event reservation” in the subject line.)

Wednesday, November 28 – Iraq: A View From the Neighborhood (Meet The Speaker Series)

Edward W. Gnehm Jr., who served as ambassador to Jordan, Australia and Kuwait during his 36-year Foreign Service career, will examine the Iraq situation through the perceptions of its neighbors: Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Jordan and Syria. Ambassador Gnehm is now Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome. *2 p.m., Arlington Central Library*

Sunday, December 16 – Holiday Choral Concert



The Alexandria Choral Society and the Alexandria Choral Society’s Children’s Chorus, together with organ, brass and harp, celebrate the holidays with old and new seasonal music. Registration is required. Discounted tickets (\$15) will be reserved for ALRI members on our registration list. Tickets will be held at the concert site until 15 minutes prior to the concert at which time they will be released to the general public. Payment is made directly to the Alexandria Choral Society at the concert site. Registrations will be accepted until December

14. *4 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.*

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 - Everyone Can Sing! (Meet the Speaker Series)

Everyone can sing...even you! Join ALRI for a lecture full of great information and comic relief! No registration is required. This event is free and all are welcome. *3:30 p.m., Shirlington Library.*

Monday, February 4, 2008 - Einstein and God (Meet the Speaker Series)

Over his lifetime, Einstein developed maturing concepts about the mysteries of nature. The speaker,



Dr. Edwir Goldin, is a retired physicist and author of the book, “Waves and Photons,; dealing with light and Einstein’s quanta. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome. *3 p.m. Arlington Central Library.*

Monday, February 11, 2008 - From Paris to Berlin (Meet the Speaker Series)

Didier Rousselet describes his personal hiking experience and the diversity of his discoveries on his 850 mile walk from Paris to Berlin. No registration is required. This event is free and all are welcome. *3:00 p.m., Shirlington Library.*



Wednesday, February 13, 2008 - U.S. Assault on Drug Abuse

Visit the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Museum with ALRI to learn how the U.S. combats illegal drug traffic and the abuse of legal drugs. Registration is required; this event is free to all ALRI members. The tour is limited to 20 registrants. *11 a.m., The DEA Museum and Visitors’ Center.*

Welcome

ALRI welcomes the 90 new members who joined between March 22, 2007 and October 17, 2007. The list of new members follows.

Patricia Acheson
Kathleen M. Adams
Iska Alter
H. Susan Augustyn
Mary Barrett
Peggy Battle
Richard C. Brannon
Karen S. Brown
Betty Burrows
Nancy Cabral
Bettina Callaway
George N. Carlson
Lois Chadbourne
Lee S. Cooper
Mary K. Davis
Michael Del Casino
Josette Desfayes
James H. Donahue
Diane P. Donnelly
Carolyn K. Dovel
Nancy F. Dunne
Madeline E. Ehrman
Anna Einsiedler
Michael Emsley
Connie Francis
Norma R. Freeborne
William Freeborne
Carol M. Frey
Geraldine A. Fritze
Katherine F. Gallagher
Kathrine H. Gathro
Lois K. Gilroy
Patricia F. Griffin
Ellen K. Haines
Arthur M. Hauptman
Jennie Herbert
Anne Marie C. Hermann
Judith C. Hollohan
Terry K. Holmer
Jack Horton
Powell Hutton

Mark R. Joelson
Joanne M. Jones
Melissa Kalner
Allen L. Keiswetter
Billie Jean Keith
Denise Kelleher
Albert D. Killeri
Bev Klassen
Genevieve J. Knezo
Susan L. Koetting
Margaret M. Krassy
Halli Kunze
Cynthia F. Larre
Gilbert M. Leigh
Cathy Leininger
Jocelyn D. Loh
Jacqueline Manley
Mary Ellen Mann
Angela Manning
Larry Manning
Charles M. Martin
Delia Mathews
Dennis McBride
Sara Melendez
Benjamin P. Miller
Jane R. Miller
Ingrid C. Molinary
Jane Montgomery
Katharine Morland
Norman Mosher
Jeanne J. Mossinghoff
Janet M. O'Neil
Ruth D. Otto
William A. Owens
Diana Pascoe
Ingrid H. Patton
James R. Petersen
Maureen Quinn
Bette R. Ries
Sharon Riotto
Rosalind Rosenberg

Sandra Rouse
Marta P. Ruiz De Gamboa
Sandra L. Saydah
Nancy J. Sayeedi
Anita K. Scott
Sylvia M. Skrel
John Spanogle
Elizabeth Stein
Gloria I. Sullivan
Robert Szymanski
Mary E. Turnbull
Emma Violand-Sanchez
Rene Von Schomberg
Diana Wade
Arlene E. Wilson
Nathaniel Wilson
Ingrid C. Winzer
Thomas Wolanin
Robert Clay Woods
Dennis W. Wright
Kathleen M. Wright
Joanne S. Yamauchi
Seth Zinman

ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

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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 Career, Technical and Adult Education Program, Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs, Sunrise Senior Living at The Jefferson, Marymount University, Elderhostel Institute Network

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."

If you are not an ALRI member
and wish to be taken off the
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