



Connecting...
People, Community,
and Knowledge

ALRI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2



ALRI: Full Speed Ahead for Fall

Buckle your seat belts. The arrival of the new fall semester course catalogs in late August starts a busy season for ALRI members, and the momentum increases rapidly.

Course registration begins September 4. Next is the annual open house September 7, in which instructors preview the classes they will be teaching. The first classes begin September 24. Add to that the September 29 event marking ALRI's fifth anniversary – and the usual year-round special events and clubs – and you have a full fall.

Course Preview

Looking for something old or new, global or local, literary or historical, scientific or artistic? Whatever, you'll find something to like among the 29 courses being offered this semester.

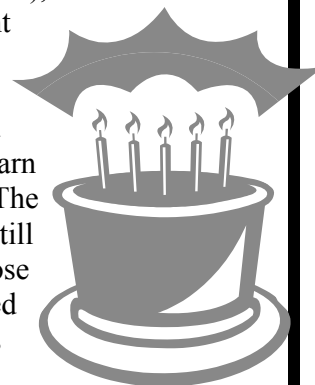
Tom Connally's popular "The Brave New World of Neuroscience" will be among the returning courses. In the new "Integrity of Science in Government: Breakthroughs and Blunders," members of the Potomac Institute will explore

(Course Preview continued on page 4)

Can It Be Five Years?

More than five years ago a handful of Arlingtonians believed that county retirees needed an organization to help meet their education and social needs. They thought right. Five years later the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute has more than 600 members, has offered 275 courses in its short history, and provided a plethora of special events and clubs for its members.

ALRI will mark its fifth anniversary with a special celebration Saturday, September 29, 2-5 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The event will include a skit, music, short formal program, members' art exhibit and a chance to reminisce and learn more about ALRI. (Note: The anniversary committee is still seeking art pieces from those members who are interested in sharing up to two pieces of their creative works—paintings, matted and framed photographs, sculpture, handmade jewelry, and pottery.)



DATES TO REMEMBER

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, September 4 | Registration for fall classes begins.
RSVP deadline for Fifth Anniversary Party |
| Friday, September 7 | Open house for fall classes, 9 a.m.-noon, George Mason University, Arlington campus |
| Monday, September 24 | Fall semester classes begin |
| Saturday, September 29 | ALRI Fifth Anniversary Party, 2-5 p.m., NRECA |

The event will be catered and members will receive invitations in the mail. Please be sure to RSVP by Tuesday, September 4, if you plan to attend.

Sprott Leads ALRI Board

ALRI members re-elected John Sprott president of ALRI and Board of Directors at the annual meeting in June and chose 13 others to serve on the board.

The new slate of officers follows. An asterisk denotes the new board members.

John Sprott, president, has led ALRI since its inception in 2002. His career has included stints as a university professor, deputy director of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute and United States Ambassador.

Jack Royer, vice president, retired after 30 years as a Foreign Service officer with USAID designing and implementing economic development programs. An ALRI member since 2002, he has been an office volunteer and member of the Academic Programs Committee.

Bob Gibson, vice president, registrar, has served as an officer since 2004. He had been senior vice president of Better Business Bureaus in charge of the dispute resolution program, president and CEO of several MacMillan, Inc., subsidiaries, and a management consultant.

Henry Brown, treasurer, worked for the Army at Diamond Ordnance Fuze Labs and NASA. He retired after 28 years of service at Booz Allen & Hamilton, where he headed a group of 60 working on electronic systems for Navy air traffic control.

Ann Wolfe, secretary, retired from the Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, after 27 years of researching, writing reports and answering questions in her subject areas for members of Congress, committees and their staffs.

Robert Howe, co-chair, Academic Programs Committee, served 27 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and 18 years as a defense analyst with RAND Corporation. He joined ALRI in 2004 and serves on the information

technology and academic programs committees.

Joan Reed, co-chair, Academic Programs Committee, became editor of The Legislative Digest after 20 years as a homemaker and community volunteer. She joined the International Trade Commission in 1981 and before her retirement was special assistant to a commissioner. She has been a member of this committee for two years.

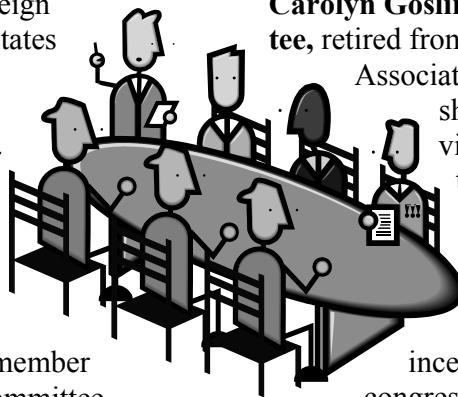
Carolyn Gosling, chair, Class Aides Committee, retired from the American Psychological Association after 21 years, most of which she spent managing a group providing promotion and support for the PsycINFO database of psychological literature.

Richard Barton, chair, Community Advisory Council, a Board member since ALRI's inception, is a retired lobbyist and congressional staffer who has been active in Arlington political and civic affairs. He served on the George Mason University Board of Visitors for eight years and, in the early 80s, on the Arlington School Board.

***Jerry LeRusso, chair of the Information Technology Support Committee**, had a 30-year career with the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. His positions included regional regulatory director, headquarters division chief, and chief of the information services division.

Gary A. Lee, co-chair, Membership Committee, is a retired international economist with more than 34 years of U.S. government service, primarily with the U.S. Treasury's international area and the Federal Reserve Board's International Finance Division.

***Marti Conlon, co-chair of the Membership Committee**, spent many years as a homemaker and active member of the community before becoming a congressional staffer. Retired since 1993, she has traveled extensively.



(ALRI Board continued on page 3)



President's Report

As ALRI begins the new fiscal year I'd like to thank all of you who participated in the annual membership meeting and those who participated in the nominating process and vote for board members. For the outgoing Board members—Jerry Greenwald, Jim Mayer, Ken McLean, and Karin Price my personal gratitude for all your time and valuable work in helping to maintain ALRI as a quality institution. Your Board participation will be missed.

Welcome to ALRI's newest Board members: Marti Conlon, Co-chair of the Membership Committee; Cindy Hatcher, Chair of the Special Events Committee; Jerry LaRusso, Chair of the Information Technology Support Committee and Jeanne Sprott, Chair of the Publications Committee.

For the members who were unable to attend the meeting, let me repeat for you some of the highlights of the past year: Membership numbers passed 600 with 197 new members; 58 courses were offered, nearly half of which were new with many new instructors as well; course registrations reached 1200; classroom locations were increased and negotiations were completed for a further increase and wider geographic distribution; The number and quality of special events has increased substantially; larger and more suitable office space has been allocated ALRI by Arlington Public Schools' Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education and the new office has been outfitted; Finally, a Community Advisory Council was established composed of prominent Arlington County community leaders.

Getting ready for the fall term? Be sure to watch for your fall catalog to arrive in August. You will be delighted at the great array of courses many of which are new. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for the ALRI 5th Anniversary Reception on September 29th from 2-5 P.M. It will be a fun time and you won't want to miss it!

— John Sprott



(ALRI Board continued from page 2)

***Jeanne Sprott, chair of the Publications Committee**, spent 34 years with the U.S. Department of State, 20 in employee development. An active ALRI member since its founding, she worked with the membership and public relations committee before establishing the Publications Committee and chairing it for the last two years.

***Cindy Hatcher, chair of the Special Events Committee**, spent many years in social services, most recently as executive director of a multi-service agency in Manhattan. Joining ALRI a month after moving to Arlington in 2004, she has served on this committee and been assistant coordinator of class aides.

FROM THE *FIRST* ALRI NEWSLETTER:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

On April 1 we exceeded expectations. We started our first term with fifteen full-fledged courses instead of the six or seven we had originally planned on offering.

MEMBERSHIP

Everyone was pleasantly surprised when ALRI recruited 275 members this year. The Board had anticipated an initial membership of about 100 by the time classes started in April

VOLUNTEERS (Some things don't change!)

The volunteer Committee is always seeking new volunteers from the ALRI membership to assist with special events, ALRI mailings, hospitality teacher liaisons/aides, course scheduling and other ALRI volunteer activities.



Volunteers

Join one of the ALRI committees listed below and help assure that ALRI offers a full program of courses and activities and keeps the organizational machinery working. The Publications Committee, in particular, has need of volunteers with editorial and keyboarding skills.

- Office Management Support Committee — Work in the office for three hours one day a week.
- Academic Programs Committee — Help develop ALRI's courses.
- Information Technology Support Committee — Use your computer skills to maintain database, especially during class registration.
- Membership committee — Recruit new members and oversee public events.
- Publications Committee — Serve as copy or managing editors for the semi-annual catalog, quarterly newsletter or monthly special events announcements and keyboarders for the catalog and newsletter.
- Special Events Committee — Develop, coordinate and implement special events for members.

To help with the publications committee, contact its chair, Jeanne Sprott, jrs4600@verizon.net or 703-516-7030. For all other committees, contact Ann Kelleran, volunteer liaison, Kellerann@juno.com or (703) 931-8528.



5TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN THE CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 29

(Course Preview continued from page 1)

how science is used or not used in government policymaking. Other new courses include "Folk Music in America: A Personal Journey With the Son of John Jacob Niles," "Faith: Influence on American Life" and "The Budget Deficit and the Trade Deficit: Is There a Connection?"

In "Global Hot Spots," nine different lecturers will focus on such subjects as Pakistan, Iraq, Africa Korea and Palestine. "The European Union: Problems and Prospects" will be led by Rene von Schomberg, EU Fellow at George Mason University. Closer to home, three Arlington County employees will explore "The Arlington Arts Scene."

Among the literary offerings are "Good Poems: As Selected by Garrison Keillor" and "Shakespeare, Politics, and Power: Henry V, Richard III, Coriolanus."

Historical courses include "Ancient Egypt," "Perspectives in World History" and "The Civil War West of the Alleghenies."

The science in "Life in the Tropical Forests" contrasts with the artistic "Behind the Footlights in Arlington," an introduction to Arlington's six theaters.

The new catalog will provide descriptions and details about all 29 courses.

Four special events in August and September are still open for ALRI members. Two additional events – a tour of the new Portuguese exhibit at the Sackler Museum and the U.S. Botanic Garden Tour – have already been filled. Registration is required only for the September 28 tour of the National Museum of the American Indian. You can register by going online at www.ArlingtonLRI.org; calling 703-228-2144 and pressing “3” for special events; or emailing ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org (using “Special event registration” in the subject line).

Monday, August 6 – Russia and the World Today: Challenges to U.S. Interests (Meet the Speaker Series)

Russia is attempting to regain great world power status and curb the hegemony of the single superpower, the United States. Dr. Lajos F. Szaszdi will discuss Russia in terms of its current foreign policy goals in general and with the United States in particular. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome. 3 p.m., Shirlington Library

Monday, August 20 – A Different Russia: An Area Hidden From Westerners (Meet The Speaker Series)

See and learn about an unusual part of the world once hidden to all westerners. Earle Young is the speaker. Registration is not required. 3 p.m., Clarendon Education Center



Monday, September 10 – An Astronomical Perspective (Meet The Speaker Series)



With images from premier astronomical instruments, Dr. Richard Berendzen will present this journey through both space and time ... from Earth to the most distant objects yet seen, from today back to the beginning of time. No registration required. This event is free and all are welcome. 3 p.m., Arlington Central Library

Friday, September 28 – Tour of the National Museum of the American Indian

Explore with ALRI traditional knowledge, histories and contemporary life as viewed from Native American perspectives at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Registration is required as a courtesy to the museum; the event is free and open to all ALRI members. 1:30 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian



The very first ALRI special Event was a concert at the Arlington Ellipse given by the Friday Morning Music Club with 35 in attendance.

Special Events

... and Now

The most recent Special Event was a lecture about China by David Finkelstein from the China Studies Center of The CNA Corporation. Pictured with David is Kristen Gunness.





CLUB NEWS



Find Your Niche With an ALRI Club

Travel Club – First Wednesday of the month, 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center. Contact Sharon Schoumacher at (703) 522-9014 or sharon@earthwave.net.

Cinema Club – Monthly movie date set to accommodate members' schedules. Contact Leanne Peters at PetersLP@aol.com or Janice Yeadon at jnyeadon@hotmail.com.

Current Issues Club – Third Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Contact James Walsh at (703) 920-1709 or walsh22204@aol.com.

Bridge Club – Monthly on irregular schedule in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at fosterbf@aol.com.

Book Club – Usually the second Monday of alternating months at Arlington County Central Library on N. Quincy Street. Contact Marge Alia (noting ALRI Book Club in subject line) at Ma-lia04@comcast.net.

Ethnic Lunch Club – Usually last Thursday of the month at local ethnic restaurants. Contact ALRI, (703) 228-2144, choose option "5" (clubs) and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin



A Word of Thanks



The work of the five member Nominating Committee for the 2007-2008 ALRI Board Election exceeded all expectations and their work deserves a special word of thanks.

They not only presented a full slate of candidates for consideration to the membership, they also placed phone calls to 250 ALRI members to find new volunteers for various other positions within the organization. They were very creative in reaching the membership in various ways, e.g., making announcements in ALRI classes concerning the search for board nominees and handing out flyers during the open house. Most importantly, toward the future of our organization, they presented a full report on all of their activities so that the effort can be easily duplicated in future years. My heartfelt thanks to Sharon Bisdee (chair), and the following committee members: Richard Pariseau, Louis Spector, Andrea Vojtko and Vivian Webb.

— Ann Wolfe, Secretary

ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

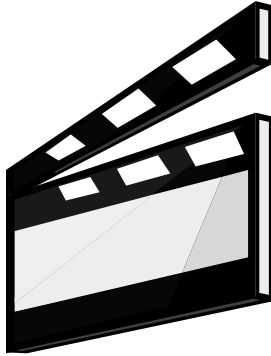
Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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

Voice: 703-228-2144
E-mail: ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org
Website: www.ArlingtonLRI.org

We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

Editor: Jody Goulden
Writers: Anne Lange, Jody Goulden, Ann Wolfe
Copy Editor: Pat Chatten
Photographer: Jeanne Sprott
Desktop Publishing: Margaret Susank/Carolyn Gosling



Move Over Capra and Spielberg

The spring film making class produced a seven-minute film, "Peepsful Resolution," which will be shown at ALRI's September 29 anniversary celebration. Class member Anne Lange writes of the film-making process.

A small group of intrepid ALRI students met with instructor Jerry Mayer at George Mason University in March and April to make a seven-minute film. At our first class Jerry showed a completed, prize-winning film from a 48-Hour Film Festival team. It certainly got our attention and increased our enthusiasm to think we could work on such a project. We then filled in a skills-assessment questionnaire to determine who, if anyone, had familiarity with video cameras, tripods, lights, sound equipment, acting, cooking, computers, safety, organization, writing, etc. It turned out a few classmates had some limited exposure to aspects of film making; others admittedly had absolutely none.

From Jerry we learned the standard format for screen writing. The class brain-stormed script ideas, wrote several scripts, and finally selected one as our project. Then the ball really started rolling -- a location site was selected, roles were assigned, props collected, costumes organized and labeled, and food prepared. The script was a skeleton, subject to frequent changes in actions, dialogue, props and setting.

Without giving too much away (it is, after all, only seven minutes), the film focuses on a conflict between next door neighbors and the effort to resolve it. We faced many challenges: we had a dog, we had kids, we had to deal with both drizzly and sunny weather, day and night filming, airplane noise, tree trimmers and county street paving in front of our location site, dying camera batteries, too-short extension cords, and the need to move actors, props and equipment over a waist-high fence via short step ladders. We had inconsistencies in costumes, location and props, and a sometimes-malfunctioning microphone, and, therefore, occasionally had to reshoot scenes. We had to learn about new editing software, select music and prepare rolling credits. Wow!

The film was edited and set to music -- Jerry's brother played Irish tunes on his mandolin. A red carpet premiere showing for the class was held June 11 and DVDs of the film were distributed to the class members.

We learned an enormous amount, had lots of laughs, and appreciated the instructor's enthusiasm and patience. All in all, it was a wonderful, fun experience.

— Anne Lange



Class at work on the set of the film "Peepsful Resolution"

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute
2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 306
Arlington VA 22201

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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 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 Division, Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs, Marymount University, Sunrise Senior Living at The Jefferson, Elderhostel Institute Network