



ALRI NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2008
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

President's Letter

ALRI MOVES FORWARD

The Institute continues to grow in membership, thanks to quality course offerings, special events, active clubs and more outreach to other local organizations. For this first newsletter of the year I thought it might be useful to note some specific ALRI accomplishments during the past 12 months. Each involved time and effort from volunteers; some required considerable expertise for their achievement. All are part of the evolutionary process of developing a sound institute.

Administrative and Program Improvements

- ◆ ALRI's **financial system** has continued to evolve with our adoption of Quick Books for Non-profits. A CPA facilitated the transition to the new system and is providing training to appropriate board members.
- ◆ A new and very functional **filing/storage system** has been developed with nearly all the five-years-plus materials now filed.
- ◆ Technical details of, and a manual for, **ALRI's information system** have been developed that will reduce the learning curve as personnel change.

(President's Letter continued on page 9)

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN

If you haven't registered for a spring semester course, it may not be too late. Although the semester begins the week of March 3, over half the courses don't begin until later in March or even April, and some classes may remain open.

You can confirm course availability and register on-line at www.ArlingtonLRI.org.

ALRI's spring courses range from "Folk Music" to "Health Care Over 65," "Estate Planning Secrets" to "Generosity and Altruism," "Church-State Issues" to "The Post Covers Politics," and "Civil War Background" to "The Middle East Crucible."

Check your catalog for all 33 courses and their starting dates.



Instructors "sell" Spring courses at Open House

✓ ALRI Action Checklist

ALRI offers many opportunities for members not only to enjoy its various programs but also to help with them. Here's what you can do.

Register for classes now.

- Register online at www.ArlingtonLRI.org or use the mail-in form in your catalog.

Complete your class evaluation forms.

- These help guide the Academic Committee in planning for a new semester.

Take advantage of special events.

- See the events calendar on page 7 and check www.ArlingtonLRI.org for newly added events.

Join a club.

- You can pursue an interest and socialize with other members through five ALRI clubs. Learn more about them on pages 3-6.

Volunteer.

- For a start, ALRI needs members to develop courses, put together the catalog, write and publish the newsletter, recruit new members, plan special events. If you're interested in giving back to ALRI, call Ann Kelleraan at 703-228-2144 or email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.
- Consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors. See other story this page.



Volunteer chair Ann Kelleraan at Open House



Consider Serving On ALRI's Board

ALRI has been very fortunate to have individuals willing to serve on the Board of Directors, several of whom have served from the very beginning. This has been great for continuity in ALRI's leadership, a critical factor to the success of a newly formed organization, and demonstrates real dedication to the Institute. However, as with all of us, individual priorities undergo change, and each year we face vacancies on the board that must be filled.

A nominating committee is now seeking individuals to serve in board positions. A slate of nominees will be presented for election at the annual membership meeting in June. *I hope you will volunteer to help keep ALRI viable.*

Board duties are not onerous, but they are critical to maintaining ALRI. Board members derive satisfaction from comradeship with fellow board members and become more engaged with the at-large membership. Also, as ALRI is increasingly integrated with other county programs, our board members have the opportunity to get to know Arlington leaders in government, schools, businesses and other voluntary organizations.

You will know from the ALRI membership that your work on the board is appreciated. You will not be alone – board work is a team effort – and you'll receive support from those more experienced on the board. New members are introduced to the board's work with a formal orientation to board functions and responsibilities and given a policies and procedures manual for continuing guidance.

To be a part of keeping ALRI healthy and responsive by serving on the Board of Directors, just e-mail your interest to Administrator@ArlingtonLRI.org. Put "Attention Nominating Committee" in the subject line. You will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee.

Remember – that catalog from which you choose and enjoy courses and those special events you attend don't just magically appear. They happen because volunteers seek and arrange them under leadership from your board.

Help keep *your* institute viable by volunteering to help lead and manage it into the future!

— Jack Royer

Clubs: Icing on the ALRI Cake

While courses provide the cake for ALRI participants, several clubs add the icing. They offer a chance to pursue special interests and meet other ALRI members in a more informal setting. ALRI club members dine together at ethnic restaurants, go to movies in a group, play bridge, discuss books or current events and hear about travel to exotic places.

Keep reading to learn about activities of the various clubs and how you can take part.

Lunch Club 'Travels' Locally Via Ethnic Restaurants

Out to
LUNCH!

Some members of the Ethnic Lunch Club are admitted foodies, and some know ethnic food from their travels. Whatever their interest, they join together monthly to explore area ethnic restaurants and socialize with other ALRI members. The conversation often turns to classes, travel, museums, plays and movies and, of course, food and restaurants.

In the club's nearly three years, members have eaten doro wat and yebeg tibs at an Ethiopian restaurant on Columbia Pike and kabobs at Bamiyan, an Afghan restaurant in Bailey's Crossroads. At the Taste of Morocco in Clarendon, they enjoyed a feast – harrira (soup), chicken bastille, aushak, mantu, mergues tangine, fresh fruit and baklava. They've tried Burmese, Chinese, Mexican, French, Turkish, and Vietnamese restaurants, to name a few – and traveled no farther than Northern Virginia to do so.

Luncheon attendance fluctuates because of schedules and tastes, says Arlene Kigin, who has chaired the club since its inception. Generally 15 to 20 of the club's 60 members attend. A member will suggest and scout a restaurant and coordinate with the staff. Each month a different member handles reservations. Sometimes the meal is shared, sometimes members order separately. Costs usually range from \$15 to \$20.

Kigin recalls when she and a friend went to Annandale to scout Korean restaurants. Overwhelmed by the choices, they stopped in one place where none of the staff spoke English – and gathered cuisine hints from the one diner who did. At the club luncheon, hands flew as members communicated with the staff – and everyone loved the food.

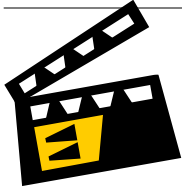
The Ethnic Lunch Club usually meets the last Thursday of each month, with the next meetings set for February 28 and March 27. To join, phone ALRI at 703-228-2144, choose the "clubs" option (5) and leave a message for the Ethnic Lunch Club. Coordinator Kigin will then contact you.



Arlene Kigin (front left) and other members of the Ethnic Lunch Club at the Meaza Ethiopian restaurant.



Remember to use the ALRI website
to REGISTER FOR CLASSES
www.ArlingtonLRI.org



Make a Movie Date with the Cinema Club

The concept is good – establish a movie club so that ALRI film aficionados can join with others to see movies and chat about them afterward. The reality is a little harder – movie schedules change and aren't announced in advance, start times vary, there are many movies to choose from, and tastes vary.

That said, the ALRI Cinema Club makes the best of the challenges, and seven or so members usually gather for a monthly matinee at Ballston, Shirlington or Potomac Yards.

New members are welcome.

The club is ideal for people who like to go to movies with others or need the drumbeat of a group and the lure of a post-movie discussion to head to the theatre. Leanne Peters and Janice Yeadon co-chair the club now – they took over

from the club's first coordinator, Judy Yavner.

What kinds of movies have participants seen? "Waitress," "The Lives of Others," "Becoming Jane," "The Jane Austen Book Club" and "There Will Be Blood," among others. Peters' all-time favorite? A little movie called "Off the Map."

The co-chairs email details of each month's excursion to a mailing list of 50. To be added to the list for this monthly meeting announcement, contact Peters at PetersLP@aol.com or Janice Yeadon at Jnyeadon@hotmail.com.



Janice Yeadon enters Shirlington Theater

Bridge Club Gives Equal Opportunities



The ALRI Bridge Club is an equal-opportunity group: some members are beginners, some are very skilled, and there are those who are in between. Whichever, they enjoy the time together, playing for the fun of it.

The Bridge Club started in 2005 with 12 members at a meeting hosted by Bernice Foster, who still coordinates the club. There are close to 30 members now, and Foster thinks they may soon have to break into two groups.

The club meets monthly at different members' homes, with future hosts volunteering either at the game or after an email solicitation from Foster. The host then picks one or more possible dates for the next meeting and asks the members to vote; the majority wins. The number of members at each meeting is limited to the number the host can accommodate, e.g., one to three tables or up to 12 people.

The club meets typically at noon but sometimes at 6 or 6:30 pm. The host provides the food (usually something simple like pizza or sandwiches), drinks and dessert. Each player pays the host \$5 to offset costs.

If you are interested in joining, contact Foster at fosterbf@aol.com.

— *Margaret Christie*



to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
www.ArlingtonLRI.org

Opinions Welcome At Current Events Club



Is Russia a friend or foe? What are the implications of cases before the Supreme Court? What are the options in Iraq? There's never a dearth of discussion topics or opinions at ALRI's Current Issues Club.

Members choose topics by consensus for the next meeting, and they've been through 30 or so topics since the club began in 2005 with a discussion of Social Security. A broad range of issues have been addressed: the health care crisis, energy dependence, Presidential primary results, China's place in the world, academic freedom/political correctness, immigration reform, and many others.

Members find the club a good way to keep informed on events. "Discussions have been relatively mild, but sometimes opinions are very strong," says Jim Walsh, who took over as coordinator 18 months ago from Doug First, board member and club founder. Walsh is careful to keep the discussions on topic and ensure that everyone participates.

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m. at the Lubber Run Community Center. Attendance averages six to 10 of the 34 members. New members are always welcome. To take part and receive Walsh's monthly email or telephone announcement, contact him at walsh22204@aol.com or 703-920-1709.

Book Club Finds A Nonfiction Niche

While many book clubs concentrate on fiction or mix fiction and nonfiction, the ALRI Book Club focuses entirely on nonfiction.

The club, initiated by Marge Alia, started in 2005 with five active members, who decided to meet every other month on the second Monday.

The group meets from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the Arlington Central Library. Attendance varies from five to 11— an appropriate number to accommodate interesting and provocative discussions.

The book club has an open format rather than a leader guiding the discussion. Members are encouraged to bring thoughtful questions to spark conversation — as well as a suggested book or two for the next meeting. As facilitator, after each meeting Alia emails the members a list of

their suggestions and asks for a vote on the next book.

The first book the club read and discussed was Robert Baer's *Sleeping with the Devil*. A recent biography they found especially interesting was *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, by Walter Issacson. At the January meeting the spotlight was on *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, by Malcolm Gladwell. The book club will meet March 17 to discuss Jeffrey Too-

bin's *The Nine*, a look at the secret inside world of the Supreme Court.

If you'd like to join, contact Alia at Malia04@comcast.net (please put ALRI Book club in the subject line of your email).

— Margaret Christie



... to CHECK THE CALENDAR
www.ArlingtonLRI.org



For Armchair Travel

Travel Club

OR

Real-Life Adventures



Once a month an adventurous group of ALRI members gather to talk about far-off places. Loosely united by their interests in places they have seen or would like to see, they comprise the ALRI Travel Club. It's not an exclusive club – any ALRI member can join.

The club meets at the Langston Senior Center at 2:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

At the January meeting, Tom Wukitsch regaled the group with some of the 400-plus photographs taken while he was leading an ALRI tour of Egypt last fall. Some of those who accompanied him brought mementos of the trip, such as shawls and elegant embroidered garments, papyrus and head-dresses. The trip down the Nile by river boat was well-documented, as were some of the temples, a quarry and other ancient sites. Well traveled ALRI member Connie Collins called this the best tour she's ever taken. At the February meeting, Jerry Greenwald pre-

sented a slide show on his fall trip to Tunisia. His interest in this destination had been sparked by Wukitsch's 2006 ALRI course on the Punic Wars and North Africa. Few remnants of Carthaginian civilization still exist, but Tunisia offers some of the best preserved Roman houses, buildings and mosaic work in the world.

What's the next destination for the Travel Club? The group has arranged for a September safari to Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The 19-day tour will cost \$6,645 each, including airfare. Not only can one see lions, hyenas, cape buffalo, giraffes, elephants, impalas, ostriches and countless other animals, but the animal preserves also boast the most amazing bird life imaginable. The tour company will be Overseas Adventure Travel, which also arranged last fall's trip to Egypt.

To find out more about the Travel Club or this upcoming adventure, contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014.

— Win Greenwald



The Travel Club in Italy



to SIGN UP FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
www.ArlingtonLRI.org

Spring Special Events: Foreign Affairs, Art and Music

Monday, March 10 – “Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs” – Meet the Author Series



David T. Jones, co-author of *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamic of State, Industry and Culture*, will discuss current relations between the U.S. and Canada. He will explore the issues that bind our countries together and a relationship that is not as sanguine as the geographic proximity would suggest. A retired U.S. senior Foreign Service officer, Jones served as a political minister counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa from 1992 to 1996 and writes extensively on U.S.-Canadian issues. Registration is not required; the event is free and all are welcome. 3 p.m., Arlington Central Library.

Friday, March 14 – Tour of the Exhibit “Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes”

Join ALRI in its continuing survey of the magnificent and original art of Japan’s Edo period, featuring works from the world-renowned Price Collection. Registration is required. The event is free to ALRI members and limited to 20 participants. 11 a.m., Sackler Gallery of Art.

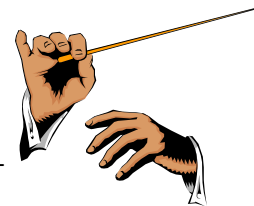


There are three ways to register:

- Online – www.ArlingtonLRI.org (See Page 8 for how-to.)
- Phone – 703-228-2144 and press “3” for Special Events
- Email – ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org (Use “Special Event reservation” in the subject line.)

Sunday, March 30 – Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Performance

Music Director Sylvia Alimena conducts this performance of compositions by Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven. Registration is required and limited to 20 registrants. Discounted tickets cost \$13 and are reserved for ALRI members who registered. These tickets will be held at the will-call desk at the concert site until 15 minutes prior to the concert. At that time the tickets will be



released to the general public. Payment is made directly to the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria.

Sunday, April 27 – Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Performance

Music Director Sylvia Alimena conducts works by Dvorak, Bartok and Ravel for the final performance of the 2007-2008 season. Registration is required and limited to 20 registrants. Discounted tickets cost \$13 and are reserved for ALRI members who registered. These tickets will be held at the will-call desk at the concert site until 15 minutes prior to the concert. At that time the tickets will be released to the general public. Payment is made directly to the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria.

ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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To Register for a Special Event

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Go to www.ArlingtonLRI.org for the fastest, easiest way to register for ALRI special events!



Click a plus box to see more choices

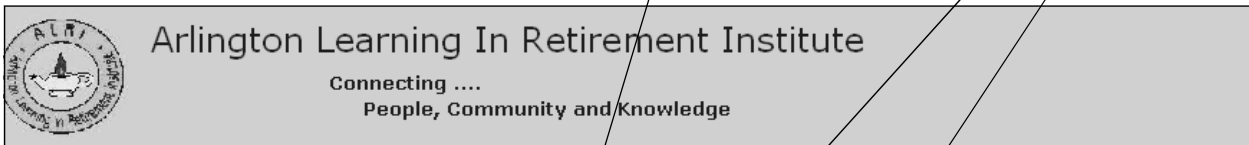
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- Related Web Sites

TO REGISTER: Click the Register button for the event you want and submit your name.

Event	Type	Date	Details	Register
From Paris to Berlin	Meet The Speaker Series	2/11/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	Not Required
U.S. Assault on Drug Abuse	Tour	2/13/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>
Remember "The Scream"?	Tour	3/7/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>
Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs	Meet The Author Series	3/10/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	Not Required
Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes	Tour	3/14/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>
National Symphony Orchestra	Performance	3/27/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - March	Performance	3/30/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - April	Performance	4/27/2008	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Register"/>

To register online for a special event, go to the ALRI website and select **Details/Register** under Special Events. The page to the left will appear. Click on the **Details** button to learn more about the event or press **Register** to submit your name. The next screen will require your name, no password.

Type your first and last name then press the **Make Reservation** button. A small window will open to notify you whether you are registered or have been placed on the waitlist. To cancel your reservation, simply press the **Cancel Reservation** button.



Click a plus box to see more choices

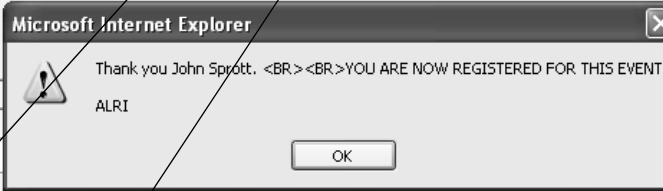
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- Frequently Asked Questions
- ⊕ Maps and Directions

Register for an ALRI Event

Event: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - April

Date: 4/27/2008

First Name:
 Last Name:
 MI:





Class Notes

Class registrations are not transferable. You and your spouse may look alike after so many years of marriage, but that doesn't qualify you to replace your spouse at a class! Only the person who registered may attend.

If the course is oversubscribed or otherwise closed or has a schedule or location change which prevents or limits the student's attendance, the course fee will be refunded in full or applied to an alternate course at the member's option.

If you withdraw from a class, you can transfer to an alternate available class or get full refund of the course fee if your request is received by ALRI at least one week before the course begins. After this deadline, a transfer or partial refund is given if your request is received no later than two working days *after* the first class meeting. No transfers or refunds are allowed after this point. See Page 5 of the recent catalog for details.

There is no waiting list for registrations. When a member cancels a registration, it simply opens a slot for the next registration being processed or someone registering online.

(President's Letter continued from page 1)

- ◆ The **Publications Committee** is fully developed with well documented procedures and guidelines.
- ◆ The process of developing a **plan for ALRI's next five years** has begun.
- ◆ **Web site** redesign has begun.
- ◆ The first **survey** of ALRI member interests and backgrounds was developed and distributed, with a very positive response.
- ◆ The **process for developing course requirements** and assigning classroom locations has been documented, with a trained group of volunteers able to carry out this task
- ◆ An ad hoc **Facilities Committee** has been set up, drawing on expertise from ALRI members, the Advisory Council and others knowledgeable about local institutional and commercial real estate.
- ◆ A **procedures manual** documenting ALRI's nominations process has been developed to facilitate this annual exercise.
- ◆ **Special events** have increased substantially in number while maintaining quality and member participation.
- ◆ The Academic Program Committee has **increased course offerings** while sustaining the high quality of courses and instructors.
- ◆ Two **classroom locations** have been added.
- ◆ **Clubs** continue to gain members and maintain an active calendar.
- ◆ The **John McCracken memorial scholarship** was initiated with a \$6,000 ALRI contribution.

Outreach Activities

- ◆ Two very productive meetings with the newly formed **Community Advisory Council** helped increase awareness of, interest in and support for the Institute.
- ◆ High-quality ALRI **special events at Arlington County libraries** have become an important contribution to the community, building public awareness of ALRI.
- ◆ ALRI **contacts with local civic organizations** and presentations to them have increased substantially, as have ALRI appearances at local farmers markets.
- ◆ The ALRI booth at the **county fair** has become a fixed part of our community outreach.

— John Sprott

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
 mailing list, please notify us at
 ALRI@ArlingtonLRi.org or
 703-228-2144

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