



ALRI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG

President's Message

SOLID YEAR SETS STAGE FOR 2009-10

This past year has been another solid one for ALRI by almost every measure. While the number of courses offered has held steady, registrations hit a record with 665 in the spring term. Special events continue to hold the interest of members. A breakfast club was formed, and participation remains high in the original six clubs.

Membership has held steady, with new members replacing those who have not renewed; this is of special note this year, given the state of the economy, and indicates ALRI's competitiveness in price and quality of programs. The addition of Lisa Culp-Neikirk to work alongside Marjorie Varner has added significantly to our office's ability to be responsive, even though total staff hours have increased only slightly. Members of the Community Advisory Council have continued their supportive role with ALRI, one result of which was a very successful meeting with Hispanic leaders in an effort to expand membership from this growing community. We

will be following up on this effort and other recruitment initiatives in the coming year. New members have been added to the Community Advisory Council: Emma Violand-Sanchez, Christine T. Milliken and Karen C. Pirhalla from George Mason University.

Space, especially for classrooms, remains a problem. With budget issues facing all of our affiliates on whom we depend for space, I do not see this issue either lessening or going away. Our relations with these affiliates remain strong, and they continue to work with us to find solutions to our classroom shortage as best they can.

In keeping with our agreements with affiliate partners, the ALRI Board contributed \$1,000 to the Arlington Foundation Frank Wilson College Fund for Arlington Public Schools (APS) graduates. This scholarship was created by the

(Solid Stage continued on page 6)



Martin Ogle, instructor for the "Naturalist's Tour," identifies an indigenous plant.



TAKE NOTE

The fall course preview (formerly called an open house) will be on **Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to noon** at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Ballston at 4301 Wilson Blvd. Free parking is available in NRECA's underground garage.



Sprott Continues At ALRI Helm

John Sprott, who has led ALRI since its inception in 2002, has been re-elected president. ALRI members voted at the June 26 annual meeting and by absentee ballot.

Other board members chosen included 11 incumbents and four newcomers: John Heyer, secretary; Ron Wise, co-chair of the membership committee; Stephen Spangler, information technology support chair; and Richard Juhnke, co-chair of the publications committee.

ALRI's officers are as follows.

John Sprott, president
 Jack Royer, vice president
 Henry Brown, treasurer
 John Heyer, secretary
 Robert Howe, academic programs co-chair
 Lee Nash, academic programs co-chair
 Carolyn Gosling, class aides chair
 Richard Barton, community advisory council chair
 Stephen Spangler, information technology support chair
 Jim Donahue, membership co-chair
 Ron Wise, membership co-chair
 Jeanne Sprott, publications co-chair
 Richard Juhnke, publications co-chair
 Fred Fagerstrom, registrar
 Cindy Hatcher, special events chair

All board members serve one-year terms, which run July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

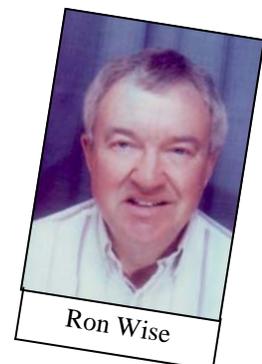
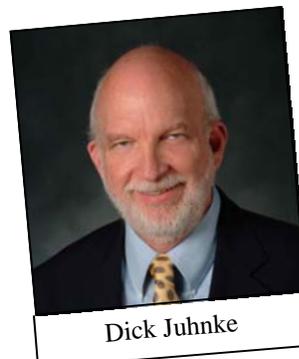
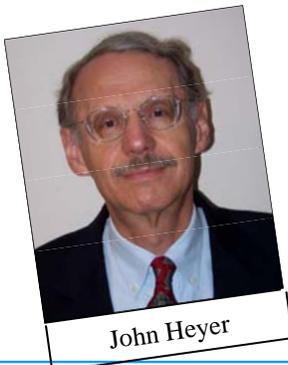
Sammy Ng headed the nominating committee. Members included Mary A. Fitzgerald, John Heyer, Jack Norman, Mary C. Pendleton and Ron Wise.

Treasurer's Report

With the increase in course registrations and stable membership levels our expenditures were well within our budgets. We ended May with \$183,440 in reserves. These reserves, recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board are to cover: (1) the remainder of the fiscal year salaries, insurance, telephones, publications and office supplies; (2) a requirement to cover six months of current expenses/contingencies, e.g. for salaries, unexpected equipment needs/repairs, and; (3) against the future need to lease space. Expenses rose during the year for publications, hospitality, payments to Arlington Public Schools (APS) and salaries.

Up to now ALRI has been unable, fiscally, to meet the agreements of our affiliations with county and state organizations to contribute to their charitable endeavors. Given the apparent stability of our income, the Board voted to initiate a scholarship fund administered by the Arlington Community Foundation while continuing annual contributions to the John McCracken and Janice Gentry scholarship funds. These contributions directly respond to our current affiliation agreements with George Mason University and Arlington Public Schools (APS) to, inter alia, fund scholarships for graduates of APS to attend George Mason University. The board believes these actions serve to bolster our efforts to support and secure our position as a solid member in the Arlington community, on which we depend so heavily. The funds from members' contributions make our support possible.

All membership and donation payments to ALRI are tax deductible to the payee. — *Henry Brown*





Fall Enticements to the Classroom

The Academic Programs Committee, chaired by Bob Howe and Lee Nash, has developed a roster of 28 courses for ALRI's fall semester. Here's just a sample:

- **Obama and the Middle East** – Allen Keiswetter presents a strategic and regional context for assessing Middle East issues.
- **A Potpourri of Asian Crises and Foreign Policy Challenges** – Stephen F. Dachi explores issues confronting North Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, and other nations.
- **Behind the Scenes at Signature Theatre** – Theatre staff explain how shows are selected and staged.
- **Good Poems for Hard Times** – Tom Dunlap leads reading/discussion of modern “evocative” poems.
- **The Two and Only: Shakespeare’s Hamlet/Shakespeare’s King Lear** – Iska Alter explores how Shakespeare uses these tragedies to create powerful visions of what it means to be human.
- **Britain’s Century: 1820–1901** – Barbara Schnorrenberg reviews Britain’s 19th century successes and their aftermath.
- **World War II U-Boats: The German Experience – Part Two**: Keith Young presents exploits and activities of German U-boats.
- **Pilgrimage and Human Society** – Eldor Pederson explores the history and cultural impact of Christian and non-Christian pilgrimage traditions.

Popular past courses to be repeated include--

- **The Washington Post: Behind the Headlines**
- **Conflicts in Africa**
- **Happiness in Retirement**
- **Solving the Medicare Puzzle**
- **A Naturalist’s Tour of Arlington: Revealing a Living Planet**



Details on all courses, instructors, dates, times, and locations will be in the fall catalog, due online mid to late August. The meet-the-instructors session to preview classes will be on Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Ballston (4301 Wilson Blvd.).



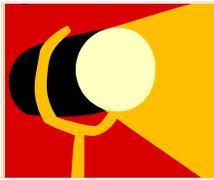
New members Elaine Ott, Betty and Michael Mele look forward to the Fall classes.

Summer Office Hours



Through Labor Day, the ALRI office at the Clarendon Education Center (CEC) will remain on summer office hours: open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. On Tuesday, September 8, the office will return to its normal schedule – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You may reach ALRI staff and volunteers this summer by phoning 703-228-2144 or emailing ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org.



SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS

The instructors who volunteer their time to lead each semester's classes deserve much of the credit for ALRI's sterling reputation. The ALRI Newsletter continues its focus on instructors with profiles of Dick Barton, Bruce Britton, Bob Weinberg and Herb Weinstein.

Richard Barton: Sausage Making Demystified



Otto von Bismarck is widely credited with comparing laws to sausages, noting that it is best not to see either being made. Hence the title of the ALRI course "The U.S. Congress: A Study in Sausage Making," taught by Richard Barton and illustrating one of his teaching tenets: you need to make your classes entertaining as well as substantive. He first offered the course in 2004 and repeated it this spring, and will offer it again in the fall.

Barton brings a solid background in legislation, having spent 11 years on Capitol Hill as the staff director for three subcommittees of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Before that he was on the staff of Rep. James H. Morrison (D-LA) and was a graduate student intern for Rep. Hale Boggs (D-LA). After leaving congressional staff work, he was chief lobbyist for the Direct Marketing Association for 23 years.

He is a seasoned congressional witness, having appeared before both House and Senate committees and testified before legislative and regulatory bodies in Texas, New York, Maryland and Virginia. He has extensive experience in public speaking and writing for publication.

Since he retired, Barton has been a government relations and public policy consultant, taught a course at George Mason University on Administration in the Political System (basically about the function of the Civil Service Commission), and worked on his Ph.D. at GMU's School of Public Policy, writing a dissertation on postal reorganization legislation in Congress. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum.

And he's been with ALRI from the start, having served on the board first as vice president, then as chair of the Community Advisory Council, a post he continues to hold.

A particularly enjoyable aspect of ALRI classes, Barton says, is the absence of exams and papers, which are a lot of work for both students and teachers. "It's much more fun to teach at ALRI," he's concluded. Impressed with ALRI students' life experience, level of knowledge and high degree of participation, he finds "you need to be aware that people in your class may know more than you do," so instructors must know what they're talking about and be accurate and precise.

And one day, when his doctoral work is completed (which it must be by June 1, 2010), Barton looks forward to becoming an ALRI student himself.

—Michele Leber

(Spotlight continued on page 5)

(Spotlight continued from page 4)

Bruce Britton: Happiness in Retirement



ALRI instructor Bruce Britton's paramount interest is in human cognition (our ability to think, understand, learn, and solve problems). He taught cognitive science/psychology classes for many years at the University of Georgia, where he also did extensive research on learning from instructional texts.

Since retiring from the university, Britton has continued to write for professional psychology journals while also pursuing his other interests, including theater and development economics. He has acted at Arlington's Washington Shakespeare Company as well as at Studio Theater. He recently wrote and staged an "adults only" play, "Wicked Pleasures First," a 14-actor "comic spectacular about French aristocrats disporting themselves in fabulous wealth, lust, hypocrisy, crime, justice, and ecstasy."

His ALRI course "Happiness in Retirement," which he will teach again this fall, introduces participants to the psychological factors that contribute to individual happiness and how they apply to retirement. His previous ALRI course, "Solving the World's Biggest Problems," dealt with the economics of developing countries and challenged students to come up with concrete ideas for eradicating the problems caused by poverty. In all his classes, Britton structures significant student participation into his lesson plans, to enhance the learning experience.

—Peggy Higgins

Robert L. Weinberg: The Bill of Rights

Bob Weinberg's annual course "The Bill of Rights: Its History, Current Interpretations and Future" is an ALRI institution. Each year since ALRI began, Weinberg has taught this course on the foundations of our constitutional rights. Like many law school courses, it is taught as a seminar with active class participation.

Weinberg is himself an institution among Washington lawyers. Straight out of Yale Law School, he joined the legendary advocate Edward Bennett Williams in representing clients in federal litigation—civil, criminal, and administrative. When the firm became Williams & Connolly, Weinberg was a founding partner; he remained at the firm for 35 years until his retirement in 1996.

Weinberg considers his most important professional accomplishment to be saving the lives of two death row prisoners, in two pro bono cases. He is a past president of the District of Columbia Bar and of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. He serves as a visiting lecturer at the University of Virginia Law School and an adjunct professor at George Washington University Law School. He received his B.A. and LL.B. from Yale and a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He has been active in Arlington civic life, serving as president of the Arlington County Civic Federation and chair of the Arlington Democratic Committee. In 1996 he ran against Frank Wolf for Congress.

Weinberg enjoys teaching ALRI students. He considers them a well-informed group, many with



(Spotlight continued on page 6)

(Spotlight continued from page 5)

government service, who are experienced with legal issues and concerned about their liberties and rights. His main preparation tool for his ALRI course is a lifetime of teaching and litigating these rights and liberties.

—John Heyer

Herbert Weinstein: The Food Guru

Do you know what happens to your food before and after “preparation to ingest”? How safe is our food? What do we really know about the food on our table? Should we change the food we select as we grow older?

These are just a few of the questions addressed in the six ALRI courses taught by Dr. Herbert



Weinstein since Spring 2005 on the origins, preparation, and enjoyment of various foods. His most recent course focused on foods from Southeast Asia – where do their ingredients originate, and how has their preparation evolved? Dr. Weinstein has also given a very popular lecture on How To Read Food Labels, in the Arlington Public Library special events series.

He was born and raised in Mexico. From the time he was a young boy, his ambition was to attend MIT. He received his chemical engineering degree from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and his MS and PhD in food science and technology from MIT.

He has lived in the United States off and on for a number of years, as well as in Brazil for four years, and in Mexico, where he was the vice president of General Foods (now Kraft Foods) from 1985 to 1990.

Weinstein brings to ALRI a wealth of practical knowledge from more than 37 years in the food industry, where he was engaged in many technical aspects of food manufacturing, distribution, product development and quality control. One of the many products he helped develop was Jello Pudding Pops. While at MIT he was part of a team that tested the first microwave oven (“a dismal failure”).

Now retired from the day-to-day business of being a food engineer, he still does consulting. He has taught at many different levels – from high school through graduate school – and particularly enjoys teaching ALRI students, he says, because they're interested, focused, and ask good questions. He likes having the flexibility to make changes to his presentation depending on students' reactions.

Weinstein expects to continue bringing to ALRI his vast knowledge of the food industry, including specialty foods from various regions of the world and other courses related to what we eat.

—Pat Chatten

(Solid Stage continued from page 1)

Foundation to honor Frank Wilson's more than 20 years of service on the APS school board. Frank has been an avid supporter and ALRI community counsel member. The Board also voted to start, next fiscal year, a scholarship fund at the Foundation for APS graduates attending ALRI affiliates George Mason or Marymount universities.

I am looking forward to working with the new board members and continuing to strengthen ALRI in the coming year. Finally, I wish once again to thank all of you who give so generously of your time and effort to ensure that ALRI meets the expectations of our members.

—John Sprott

The Elves **BEHIND** ALRI's Course Catalog



Like children anxiously anticipating Santa, ALRI members eagerly await the arrival of the fall and spring course catalogs. And just as Santa depends on his elves to help him with the gifts that fill his bag once a year, ALRI depends on its own set of elves: the small band of members who work diligently to produce the catalogs that fill the postal carriers' bags twice a year. In addition to the copies mailed to all 600-plus ALRI members, ALRI posts the catalog on its website and supplies copies to Arlington libraries, the Clarendon Education Center, Arlington Parks and Recreation and the courthouse. The membership committee also uses it as a recruitment tool at such activities as the Arlington County Fair and the Arlington Farmers Market.

Creating each catalog is a time-consuming job spread over two-and-a-half months, requiring organizational and keyboard skills, an eye for precision, a touch of marketing savvy, and a can-do-it mentality. Those responsible are a five-to-six member subcommittee of ALRI's Publications Committee, plus a mail-out crew for the catalog and the newsletter.

Despite the many details, managing editor Marolyn Hatch calls her job easy. Perhaps that's because it's an extension of her career as an editor – and because almost all the work is done electronically. In addition, a style sheet gives guidelines to ensure that the copy is consistent, and a good tracking system makes it simple to follow the progress of each course write-up through the editing and review processes. It's not always smooth sailing, of course, as sometimes it can be challenging to get concurrence on wording from the various parties involved.

Hatch literally manages the flow – which begins when ALRI's Academic Committee sends her course descriptions and instructor bios. Additional copy comes from the membership and special events committees, and contacts with the board of directors, executive director, registrar and administrator can result in still more pieces for the catalog.

After Margaret Susank enters the copy into Microsoft Word, Hatch emails it to Jill Neuville and Jerry Hoganson, who've been sharing the editing of ALRI catalog copy for four years.

"I always ask myself if the course description is interesting," says Neuville. "If it isn't, I try to rework it so that the copy will draw people in." Sometimes she'll begin a course description with a question. Sometimes she'll make the description more concise, or easier to understand. "The joy," Hoganson notes, "comes in producing descriptions that do justice to the richness of the course offerings." The process itself has become progressively smoother over the years.

At this point, proofreader Ann Kurzius steps in. "I act as a fresh set of eyeballs, to catch and fix anything the copy editors might have missed," she explains. She goes over all the course descriptions as email attachments and later, after ALRI's contractor has arranged the typeset copy into pages, checks the final catalog page proofs for accuracy and consistency.



L-R: Jill Neuville, Marolyn Hatch, Jerry Hoganson, Margaret Susank, Ann Kurzius

Throughout the process, publication chair Jeanne Sprott provides a guiding hand, and, finally, Geri Hirai, Dick Juhnke and their bulk mail volunteers address and mail the final catalogs. (As of July 1, Juhnke became co-chair of the committee with Sprott and will become equally involved in the catalog production process.)

While catalog production may not appeal to all, those who volunteer find considerable gratification in the

(Elves continued on page 8)



ALRI Reaches Out To the Latino Community

ALRI has begun a new initiative to recruit more Latino/Hispanic members. Emma Violand-Sanchez, a member of the ALRI Community Advisory Council and the Arlington County School Board, organized a discussion group to explore programs/activities that might engage this community.

At a result of the discussion with representatives of the Latino community, ALRI will sponsor a special event to address topics of interest to both the community at large and the Hispanic community. One or more focus groups will help determine those topics. In addition, "tertulias" – social gatherings with literary or artistic overtones – will be investigated as another approach to reaching out to the Hispanic community.

Those attending the luncheon included (L-R) Andrus Tobar, Jeanne Sprott, Luz Stroh, Emma Violand-Sanchez, John Sprott, Anna Maria Alfaso, Stefani Takushi, Jack Royer, Dr. Jorge Ribas, Denise Rosado. Not pictured: Jim Donahue, Chair, Membership Committee.



Wanted: An Error Detective



If you note grammar errors and spelling mistakes in your magazines and newspapers or cringe when a radio reporter mangles his pronouns, you have what we are looking for in the managing editor position with the ALRI course catalog team.

The process is simple and refined, the team more than competent and friendly and the whole job is done electronically. You manage and track electronically the development of course descriptions and are one of those who proof results. Our current editor has moved from the area, but would be able to offer training and advice when needed. If this appeals to your "inner editor," please get in touch with Jeanne Sprott at 703-516-7030 or jrs4600@verizon.net.

(Elves continued from page 7)

work. Neuville enjoys learning about ALRI classes early and doing a volunteer job that's a twice-a-year project rather than a weekly commitment. Kurzius likes the way the catalog team members work independently (meetings are rare) to create an enticing, professional looking, error-free product for an audience that still expects that, despite the decline in editorial standards elsewhere.

Hatch has been pleased seeing the evolution to a better, more efficiently produced catalog, as well as a brighter, more attractive cover. Despite its pleasures, the fall 2009 catalog will be her last. She and her husband have moved to Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg.

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: Pat Chatten, Jody Goulden, John Heyer,

Peggy Higgins, Michele Leber

Copy Editor: Ann Kurzius

Proofreaders: Marti Conlon Jeanne Sprott

Desktop Publishing: Carolyn Gosling, Margaret Susank

ALRI at a Glance

GENERAL INTEREST

Tuesday, September 8 – Resumption of regular office hours (10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays)

Saturday, September 12 – Fall course preview, 9 a.m.- noon, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 4301 Wilson Blvd.

Monday, September 14 – Class registration begins.

Monday, September 28 – Fall classes begin.

Monday, October 12 – Office closed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

To register for special events, go to ArlingtonLRI.org, call 703-228-2144 or email ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org

Friday, August 14. Mary McFadden: Goddesses, One Designer's Creative Vision. 11 a.m. tour. National Museum of Women in the Arts. Registration required and limited to 20 ALRI registrants. \$8, payable at door.

Monday, October 5. Meet the Speaker series. **Irmgard Scherer, on "Conundrum: Free Will vs. Scientific Determinism."** Arlington Central Library, 3 p.m. All are welcome.

Friday, October 16. Woodlawn Plantation and the Pope-Leighey House. 10 a.m. tour. Registration required. \$13, payable at tour.

YOUR THOUGHTS ON SPECIAL EVENTS?

The Special Events Committee is taking a well earned rest from the rigors of identifying and scheduling events for ALRI members but is already thinking ahead to the fall and spring terms. We've noticed that attendance at our recent lectures and events is not as high as it has been and are not sure why - content? frequency? insufficient variety?

We'd very much appreciate your feedback and also specific suggestions for both lectures and tours so we can continue to offer a quality program. Please let me or other members of the committee know your thoughts and ideas so we can plan accordingly. Cindy Hatcher, chair, cindypye@verizon.net

CLUBS

Book Club. Alternating months. Arlington Central Library, 1:30-3:30 p.m. For information contact Marge Alia (noting ALRI Book Club in subject line) at Malia04@comcast.net.

Breakfast Club. Wednesdays, 8 a.m. at the La Madeleine, 5861 Crossroads Center Way, Bailey's Crossroads. Contact Bruce Britton at bbrittonva@yahoo.com

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

Cinema Club. Contact Leanne Peters at peterslp@aol.com or Janice Yeadon at jnyeadon@hotmail.com for next meeting date and details.

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

Ethnic Lunch Club. Usually the fourth Thursday. Call ALRI, 703-228-2144, and leave message for coordinator Arlene Kigin.

Travel Club. First Wednesday. 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center. For information contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014 or Sharon@earthwave.net

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 50 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ARLINGTON, VA
 PERMIT NO. 214