



# ALRI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

WWW.ARLINGTONLRI.ORG



## ALRI VOTING COMES IN JUNE

Looking for a simple election without rancor or corruption? You'll find it when ALRI members vote in June on a slate of officers to guide the organization for the 2010-2011 year.

Though lacking the drama of national elections, this vote is nonetheless significant. The five officers and 10 committee chairs who serve on the ALRI board oversee the policies and activities of the organization. Each member's vote is important, too. A quorum – 20 percent, or 120 members – must participate to validate the election.

In mid-May, members will receive a mailing with information about the slate of officers, an absentee ballot, and an invitation to vote in person and participate in a discussion on ways to better the organization at the June 11 annual meeting. The meeting at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and end by noon.

The nominating committee selected nominees for two open positions, Mildred Patterson for Publications and Earle Young for Special Events, says its chair Barbara Nash. But at the newsletter press time, Nash and her committee – Bernie Alter, Marti Conlon, Lou Spector and Margie Teed – were still seeking a co-chair of the membership committee.

The incumbents to be included on the nominating slate include the following:

President: John Sprott  
Vice President: Jack Royer  
Secretary: John Heyer  
Treasurer: Henry Brown  
Registrar: Fred Fagerstrom

Academic Programs Committee

Co-Chairs: Robert Howe and Lee Nash

Class Aides Committee Chair: Carolyn Gosling

Community Advisory Council Chair: Richard Barton

Information Technology Committee: Stephen Spangler

Membership Committee Co-Chair: Ron Wise

Publications Committee Co-Chair: Richard Juhnke

All board members serve a one-year term, which begins after the general meeting.

– Jody Goulden



## Spring 2010: Mixture of New and Old



From Greek Drama on Film to Contemporary Russia, from Civil War Combat to Global Hot Spots, ALRI offered an extensive array of classes for this year's spring semester. Course offerings included brand new topics along with repeats of popular courses such as Our Legacy from the Middle Ages. Instructors included those who are veterans with ALRI as well as several new to ALRI.

Classes offered for the first time by new instructors were:

- ◆ Comedy in Film – Russell Notar
- ◆ Pre-Columbian Art and Modernism – Ellen Notar
- ◆ The Educated Theater Audience – D. Ohlant
- ◆ Greek Drama on Film – James Joy
- ◆ Contemporary Russia – Nellie Ohr

(Spring Semester continued on page 6)





## President's Note

Whew! I believe we are all happy to see the last of the snow and the beginning of spring. Classes are in full swing with total registrations only slightly lower than last year at this time and only two that did not make their registration minimums. Not bad considering we were unable to hold the Course Preview which always brings in registrations after members hear instructors briefs of their courses.

The Academic Programs Committee has begun developing the slate of courses for the fall so if you have a course you would like to see offered, and know an instructor to present it, let them know via [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org). Remember also that the Special Events Committee schedules events year round and new ideas are always welcome.

Remember the annual ALRI Membership Meeting will be held on June 11, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

—John Sprott

## Staff Corner Summer Office Hours



From June 15 through Labor Day, the ALRI office at the Clarendon Education Center (CEC) will operate on summer office hours: open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays

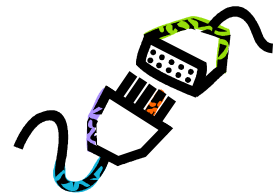
only. On Tuesday, September 6, the office will return to its normal schedule. You may reach ALRI staff and volunteers this summer by phoning 703-228-2144 or emailing [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org).

What are you doing this summer? Administrator Donna Banks will be off to the beach in August while executive director Marjorie Varner packs her oldest off to college. Speaking of packs, Marjorie will spend a week trekking through the Blue Ridge Mountains with Troop 104 at the Boy Scout Lenhok'sin High Adventure camp. Let's all sing together: Valdeeree, valderah, my knapsack on my back. Here's hoping for dry weather in mid-July!

— Marjorie Varner



## AV Class Aides Wanted: Folks to Make Connections



A picture is worth a thousand words. More and more ALRI instructors are taking this to heart and seeking out illustrations and videos that can be projected on a screen for the class. One duty of class aides is to support the audiovisual needs of the instructors, and this aspect of the job often gives prospective aides pause in volunteering their services.

To support the class aides and instructors, we'd like to form a group that will familiarize themselves with the audiovisual equipment available and attend the first class or two to help the class aides set it up. Advanced computer skills are not needed, just a willingness to learn about what equipment is needed and how to connect the various pieces.

If this piques your interest, please call the office, 703-228-2144. The office staff will pass your name on to Carolyn Gosling, Class Aides Committee chair.

## Moving the Mail From ALRI to You



The interviews are done; the facts gathered and checked; the articles written, edited, and proofed; the publications designed; the layouts precise; the artwork perfect. What's left? One of the most important steps in the publications process: getting all the vital information to you – ALRI members and friends, so that you can put it to good use.

That's where a large group of dedicated volunteers step up to the plate and work together closely to get three or four newsletters and two catalogues distributed quickly and efficiently every year. A four-member mail-out crew works with the post office and the printer to literally do the "heavy lifting," as each catalogue printing weighs about 300 pounds. Dick Juhnke, Jim Schroeder, Wendell Yee and Leonard Wong stand by when a publication is ready to come off press at the Arlington Public Schools printing plant on Quincy St., where ALRI pays to have its publications printed. ALRI routinely mails 900 or more copies of every publication.

When the publication is in hand, a call goes out to mail team coordinator Geri Hirai. Hirai then gets busy setting up what she calls a "mail-out party." She reserves a room in the Clarendon Education Center (CEC), asks the ALRI office to print mailing labels and contacts her volunteers to try to find about 10 people who are available to work on mail preparation. The folks who help include Marge Alia, Clare Brewster, Sharon Cunningham, Vicki Curtin, Millie Duffy, Doug First, Carolyn Gosling, Irene Husson, Sharon Jourdan, Denise Kelleher, Anne Lange, Marjie Mayer, Barbara Nash, Ruth Ann Neely, John Niehaus, Donna Pastore, Vicki Ratcliffe, Leanne Peters, Barbara Sakamoto, Lou Spector, Sharon Shoumacher, Flo Tanabe, Lucy Thompson, Rozanne Weiss, Leonard Wong, and Wendell Yee.

"I am really lucky to have a wonderful group

*"They are truly THE BEST group of workers. When we get together, the group is efficient and intense."*

of people to help me with the mailings," Hirai says. "They are truly THE BEST group of workers. When we get together, the group is efficient and intense. We can get the catalogues ready for the post office much quicker than we can do the newsletters. The catalogues are a quick shot. If all goes well, 10 of us can label and sort them in an hour or so," Hirai explains.

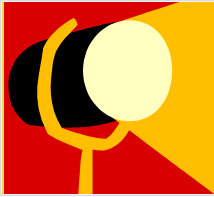
The newsletters are more labor intensive because they must be folded, labeled, sorted by zip code and have three stickers put on each one in order to conform to postal regulations. ALRI follows the bulk mail, non-profit postal rules to get a discount on postal rates. It can be hard to keep up with changes in rates and procedures, according to Juhnke.

"When the fall catalogues went to the post office, we found out that because of a new rule, we needed to re-position all of our mailing labels," he said. The ALRI office printed another set of labels and Hirai reassembled her crew to re-label all of the catalogues. "That saved the day for us. Otherwise, we would have had to pay three times as much in postal costs," Juhnke said.

The publications get mailed to ALRI members, prospective members and recent former members, as well as community contacts. Extra copies go to the ALRI office for newly joined members and individual requests and pickup racks at the CEC adult education counter.

Another step in the distribution process is handled by Doug First. First distributes copies to libraries, senior centers and sites such as the County Office Building and The Jefferson. Copies are also needed for the membership committee, which uses them for recruitment at events such as the Arlington County Fair and the Arlington Farmers Market. "For the last catalogue we initially ordered 300 non-mail copies and then had to go back for an additional 400 copies because demand was so great," Junke said.

—Maureen Quinn



## SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTORS

ALRI is fortunate to have a plethora of instructors who volunteer to teach courses each semester. In this issue, we've interviewed two of them – Stephen Dachi and Allen Keiswetter. Their efforts and those of all of ALRI's instructors assure ALRI of its superb reputation as a learning institute for those in the Metro area.

### **Stephen Dachi: Generally Speaking**

Stephen Dachi, an ALRI instructor since 2004, happily calls himself a generalist. You can always get a specialist, he says, but a generalist blends technical facts with politics, pragmatism and viability.

Politicians are generalists who look “at the interests of the people and weave technical facts with political reality,” he says. They make most of the important decisions that effect individuals, and must then explain their decisions in language that people understand.

Dachi does much of the same, using his teaching to help reasonably educated persons understand complicated, difficult problems. People don't have time to know everything, he says. “I have to make them (my lectures) interesting, entertaining and enjoyable so that people can more easily remember what is said.” He speaks without notes and laces his lectures with anecdotes and humor.

While he believes that specialists provide the depth, he has concentrated on breadth, as indicated by the courses he's taught at ALRI: Global Economy: Key Issues and Major Players; Political Islam; Latin America Today; and Potpourri of Asian Crises. He also is a guest lecturer in the Global Hot Spots course.

Dachi's linguistic skills – he speaks five languages – gave him a boost in becoming a foreign service officer. As U.S. consul general in Sao Paulo, he used his German, knowledge learned as an oral pathologist and dogged determination to help confirm the death of the infamous death-camp physician, Josef Mengele. Dachi's nearly 30-year career with the Department of State included posts in South Asia, South America and Hungary.

Although retired, he is an international consultant and lecturer, teaches political Islam and global energy security at George Washington University and chairs South Asia area studies at state department's Foreign Service Institute. Despite 50-hour weeks (he claims to be slowing down), Dachi occasionally takes to the sea as a guest lecturer on a cruise ship.



— Jody Goulden



### **Allen Keiswetter: A Turn Eastward**

There Allen Keiswetter was: a student of European studies and a French-speaking European specialist in State Department, when along comes Henry Kissinger with his concept of globalization – foreign service officers should know about areas beyond their area of specialization.

By the time Keiswetter ended his 36-year career at state, he spoke fluid Arabic, was a Middle East expert and had lived 15 years in an assortment of posts – Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, Sudan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia – in addition to Europe and Vietnam. Most significantly, he served as deputy

(Keiswetter continued on page 5)

# Get Inspired To Volunteer



"We make a living by what we do,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill

If you have some extra time and a commitment to ALRI, there's no better time than now to volunteer to help. ALRI is in search of volunteers for specific tasks:

- An editor for the ALRI Newsletter. The editor works to develop the content of each newsletter and manages the production process from assigning articles through the layout of each issue. A background in publishing or editing is helpful but not essential.
- Writers for the newsletter. Writers volunteer to write one or two articles for the quarterly newsletter. It's an opportunity to learn about the organization and keep up with or develop writing skills.
- Office staff. ALRI volunteers perform office work to augment the work of the ALRI office staff. Help is needed at the Clarendon Education Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays during the summer and from noon to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays during the rest of the year.

Volunteers can also help by service on committees, each of which is chaired by a board member. Among the committees from which to choose are

- Special events. Seek exhibits, speakers and performances for special event offerings.
- Membership. Recruit new members and set up ALRI functions.
- Class aides. Serve as liaison for instructors, class members and ALRI administration.

To become an ALRI volunteer, you can complete a volunteer form online ([ArlingtonLRI.org](http://ArlingtonLRI.org)) or print out the form to return to the ALRI office by mail. Alternatively, contact Ann Kelleran at 703-228-2144 or [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org).

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. ... It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop."  
Dr. Dorothy I. Height

*(Keiswetter continued from page 4)*

assistant secretary of state in the last year of the Clinton administration and first of the Bush administration.

As a scholar now at the Middle East Institute, he does frequent media interviews, including for CNN and BBC. His 2008 article, "Political Islam: Premier for the Perplexed," appeared in the *Foreign Service Journal*.

First at the National Defense Intelligence College, then at the University of Maryland and now at ALRI, Keiswetter ties his expertise to an earlier desire to teach. How did he come to teach at ALRI? "I got my arm twisted," he says. Former academic committee co-chair Joan Reed, who had heard him lecture at their church, invited him to teach, and he agreed once his schedule lightened. His third ALRI course, Obama and the Middle East, followed two courses on The Middle East Crucible. "The secret of teaching is to be interested in students, what they want to know and coming up with ways to respond to their interests," he says. He finds ALRI students to be up-to-date and well-informed and that teaching – and the questions and answers at his classes – keep him on top of the changes in the Middle East.

But Keiswetter has more interests than the Middle East and teaching. He is a student himself, having taken ALRI courses on Shakespeare and, most recently, on the theater. —Jody Goulden

*(Spring Semester continued from page 1)*

◆ Photographing the Cold War – Garrett Cochran

Some of our instructors were familiar faces who taught in our first term and have taught many times since. They included:

- ◆ Tom Connally –The Medical Century
- ◆ John Schnorrenberg - Great Sculptors
- ◆ John Edward Niles –America’s Operatic Voices
- ◆ Bob Weinberg –Bill of Rights

Tom Wukitsch, who has taught in every term since our beginning, offered Renaissance Rome. R. Keith Young taught two classes reflecting his deep interest in military history: Civil War Combat and World War II: Naval Topics from the Pacific – Kamikazes and Ending the Pacific War.

Classes started after most of the aftereffects of our record snowfalls had disappeared, but the Spring Course Preview scheduled for February 6 had to be cancelled. The course preview was to offer a chance to hear instructors talk about their course offerings. Unfortunately, February 6 was a day on which the Weather Service had predicted yet another significant snowfall with potentially hazardous driving conditions. Their prediction proved accurate and we were glad that we had not asked anyone to come out under such difficult conditions.

Course registrations topped 600 by the end of March. Three classes – Global Hot Spots, Contemporary Russia, and The Enterprise of Philosophy – filled all of their slots and half our courses filled at least half their available seats despite a slower rate of registration at the beginning of this snow-laden semester. Global Hot Spots made a record of sorts by filling within 12 minutes of the start of registration. A quarter of the courses began in April, allowing for late registrations, but ALRI staff encouraged early registration to ensure adequate enrollment figures prior to the cancellation deadline. Insufficient enrollment forced cancellation of two courses, The Troubles in Northern Ireland and Restoring Thrift.

The Academic Program Committee is already at work on course development for the fall semes-

ter. The official start was in February, but, Bob Howe, committee co-chair, points out that program planning for the next semester really started last fall. Some classes originally scheduled for last fall didn’t get fully developed, but might come to fruition in time for next fall. The committee may also reach out to popular instructors who’ve taught in the past to bring them back for new courses. Without question, there will be plenty of choices from which we will be able to choose.

— Peggy Higgins

### Earlier profiles

If you missed reading one of our 15 previous instructor profiles, you can find them in past issues of the ALRI Newsletter found on the ALRI website ([ArlingtonLRI.org](http://ArlingtonLRI.org)) under publications.

Clement Aapengnuo, summer 2008

Dick Barton, summer 2009

Cherie Bottum, summer 2008

Bruce Britton, summer 2009

Thomas Connally, summer 2008

Tom Dunlap, fall 2008

Lee Lederer, fall 2008

John Edward Niles, summer 2009

Martin Ogle, summer 2008

Irmgard Scherer, spring 2009

Barbara Schnorrenberg, summer 2008

John Schnorrenberg, summer 2008

Karl VanNewkirk, fall 2008

Thomas Wukitsch, fall 2008

Bob Weinberg, spring 2009

Herb Weinstein, spring 2009

### ALRI Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the

#### Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute

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Arlington, VA 22201

Voice: 703-228-2144

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

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

We welcome your articles, questions, and suggestions.

Editor: Jody Goulden

Writers: Peggy Higgins, Donna Howell, Maureen Quinn,

Proofreaders: Jody Goulden, Jeanne Sprott,

Desktop Publishing: Carolyn Gosling, Margaret Susank

# ALRI at a Glance

## GENERAL INTEREST

**Friday, May 21** – Spring semester ends.

**Saturday, May 22** – Volunteer Appreciation and New Member Social, 4 p.m. Liberty Tower, 818 N. Quincy St., Arlington.

**Monday, May 31** – ALRI offices closed for Memorial Day holiday.

**Friday, June 11** – ALRI annual meeting, 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*To register for special events, go to [ArlingtonLRI.org](http://ArlingtonLRI.org), call 703-228-2144 or email [ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org](mailto:ALRI@ArlingtonLRI.org)*

**Sunday, May 2** – **Eclipse Chamber Orchestra.** George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 3 p.m. Registration required. \$15 fee payable at the location and includes post-concert reception, tickets must be claimed by 2:45 p.m. Limit 30.

**Thursday, May 6** – **ABC 7/WJLA-TV.** ABC/WJLA-TV Headquarters at 1100 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn, 10:30 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 20. **FILLED - WAIT LIST ONLY.**

**Friday, May 7** – **The Sacred Made Real.** National Gallery of Art, East Building, 11 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 30.

**Friday, May 21** – **Feel the Spirit! Encore Chorales.** Washington-Lee High School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. No registration required. Free. All are welcome.

**Saturday, June 5** – **National Chamber Ensemble - Vivaldi's Extraordinary "Four Seasons."** Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 7:30 p.m. Registration required. \$15 payable at the door to National Chamber Ensemble. Limit 20.

**Monday, June 14** – **Religious Conflicts and Their Resolution.** Arlington Central Library, 3 p.m. No registration required. Free. All are welcome.

**Thursday, June 24** – **From Impressionism to Modernism, The Chester Dale Collection.** National Gallery of Art, West Building, 11 a.m. Registration required. Free. Limit 25.

## CLUBS

**Book Club.** Alternating months at 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](mailto:Malia04@comcast.net).

**Breakfast Club.** Wednesdays, 8 a.m. at La Madeleine at Bailey's Crossroads, intersection of Columbia Pike and Rt. 7 (Leesburg Pike). Contact Karen Cavanaugh at [kcavanaugh6@verizon.net](mailto:kcavanaugh6@verizon.net).

**Bridge Club.** Monthly on irregular schedule in members' homes. Contact Bernice Foster at [fosterbf@aol.com](mailto:fosterbf@aol.com).

**Cinema Club.** Contact Leanne Peters at [peterslp@aol.com](mailto:peterslp@aol.com) or Janice Yeadon at [jnyeadon@hotmail.com](mailto:jnyeadon@hotmail.com) for next movie 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](mailto:walsh22204@aol.com).

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

**Travel Club.** Monthly on first Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., Langston Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpepper St., Arlington. For information contact Sharon Schoumacher at 703-522-9014 or [Sharon@earthwave.net](mailto:Sharon@earthwave.net)

—Donna Howell

**Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute**

ALRI offers college-level noncredit 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."

**ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 11  
FAIRLINGTON COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

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

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