

TALLWOOD TIMES



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at George Mason University
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Walking Group meets from 8:15 to 9:15 on Tuesdays at Lake Anne Church. Bridge Club meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 during the fall term and on Thursdays at 10:00 between terms. History Club meets at 1:30 on first Wednesdays. Book Club meets at 1:30 on second Wednesdays.

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 2, 1:30, Special Events Committee
Wed., Oct. 2, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club
Fri., Oct. 4, 10:00, Program Committee
Wed., Oct. 9, 2:00, Special Event
Fri., Oct. 11, Bus trip to Annapolis
Wed., Oct. 16, Special Event
Fri., Oct. 18, 10:00, Board of Directors
Wed., Oct. 23, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club
Wed., Oct. 23, 2:00, Special Event
Fri., Oct. 25, 10:00, Reston Support Committee
Wed., Oct. 30, 2:00, Special Event

NOVEMBER

Fri., Nov. 1, 10:00, Program Committee
Fri., Nov. 1, Green Spring Gardens Tour
Wed., Nov. 6, 1:30, Special Events Committee
Wed., Nov. 6, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club
Wed., Nov. 13, 2:00, Special Event
Fri., Nov. 15, Fall term ends
Fri., Nov. 15, 10:00, Board of Directors
Wed., Nov. 20, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club
Thurs., Nov. 21, 10:00, Bridge Club
Fri., Nov. 22, 10:00, Program Committee
Wed., Nov. 27, 10:00, Investment Forum

LRI will hold classes on Columbus Day, Oct. 14, and Veterans' Day, Nov. 11. The office will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 28 and 29. Catalogs for the winter term will be mailed Friday, Dec. 13. Registration begins Thursday, Dec. 19. The winter term begins Jan. 27.

The Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University is a non-profit, affirmative action, equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or ethnic origin. It is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

From the President...

Your president likes good news and good numbers. Plenty of both! LRI is proud to have 630 members for the fall term 2002. We are delighted to welcome 81 new members and look forward to getting to know them.

Thanks to the great job done by Carol Ferrara and her Program Committee and Resource Groups, we have 58 courses this term. Add in 10 winning Special Events, the other interesting ongoing activities and clubs of LRI, and lots of cookies, and we should have a fun time.

Those folks with green tags in your classes are members of the Board of Directors. They are always interested in hearing from you about any problems and your ideas and suggestions for making LRI even better. The LRI staff stands ready to help, too, but remember that they are also busy making sure everything runs smoothly, especially between classes as they get ready for the next class. We are very fortunate to have the team of Carol Ferrara, Joanne Lingerfelt, Jennifer Maloney and Mathilde Speier working for us. Thank you, staff!

Other news:

- Our good neighbors in Arlington are developing plans for an LRI, and we will be assisting by providing information on our experiences and offering to meet with individuals and groups as their needs arise.
- By the time you read this, we should have a new contract with the Washington Plaza Baptist Church in Reston to continue our fine relationship for the use of their classroom space. We are also exploring a cooperative effort with the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne to co-sponsor occasional special events or classes.
- The upcoming higher education bond referendum is important to GMU, so I encourage you to be informed and to vote on November 5.
- The LRI annual budget currently is slightly over \$176,000, and we will soon be developing the budget for 2003. LRI is in reasonably good financial health, but we need to look carefully, as always, at income versus current expenditures and longer-term equipment requirements plus an operating reserve.

I wish everyone a great fall term.

Bob Bohall

Important bond referendum

George Mason University is asking LRI for help in educating our friends and neighbors on the General Obligation Bond Referendum that will be on the November ballot.

The referendum provides \$900 million in financing for a wide range of projects for Virginia's colleges and universities. GMU is designated to receive \$80 million for construction on its campuses in Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William counties. The university says this construction is vital to meeting the expanding student population in Northern Virginia. This education bond is NOT a tax referendum and is NOT connected with the more controversial transportation funding issue to be decided on the same ballot.

Flyers describing the bond issue are in our LRI classrooms. Additional information is on the web site www.supportgmu.org. Please educate yourself and your friends on this issue and please help get out the vote on November 5.

LRI receives laptops

LRI now has three "new" laptop computers, thanks to LRI member Bill Ciccolo and his former employer, the SRA Corp. These used computers no longer met the company's needs, but they are needed at LRI to present instructional material in classrooms and to serve as backup computers in the office.

LRI got excellent technical support from Richards Computer in Merrifield in reprogramming these machines for our needs.

This success story started with the initiative of a member (Bill) in convincing his former employer (SRA) to make a contribution to LRI followed by a local

Toshiba maintenance office (Richards Computer) providing LRI with timely and low-cost software support to make the computers usable for LRI. We need more of this kind of initiative by members and cooperation by local businesses.

To get the classes you want...

PRIORITIZE!

The most important thing you can do to improve your chances of getting the courses you want is to list them in order of their importance to you on the Registration Form.

Some members are listing their selections in numerical order as they appear in the catalog. Wrong! The computer registration system puts all selections in the order they are listed on the form. If you want to get into an especially popular course but list it as, say, your third or fourth

choice, chances are you won't get into that one. List it first and you are almost certain to get in. In the fall term, everyone got their first choice, and most got their second choice.

You can increase your chances of getting the courses you want if you get the Registration Form in early. The computer tracks the dates that forms are received, and early birds have a better crack at getting courses they want.

Catalogs are mailed on Fridays (dates are announced in LRI publications), and registration begins the following Thursday to allow for mail delivery. You can see a copy sooner if you come by the Tallwood office that week, though Registration Forms cannot be accepted until the official beginning of registration on Thursday. You can also read the catalog on our home page (www.gmu.edu/departments/lri).

Treasurer's Corner

LRI is in good financial health at this time, thanks to the efforts of Allen Montecino, who preceded me as treasurer, the efforts of the operating committees and members who save LRI money by volunteering their time and talents, as well as giving to "Friends of LRI" and other development/fund-raising activities.

LRI operates on a calendar year. The Finance Committee began its budget planning for 2003 in September. Members of the committee are Janet Meisenhelder, Charles Duggan (a CPA), Allen Montecino, LRI administrator Joanne Lingerfelt, and yours truly (also a CPA and chairman of the committee). All committee chairpersons have been asked to use a "clean sheet of paper" in crafting their budget requests—that is, use a zero-based budgeting approach in requesting funds necessary to meet the organization's goals and members' needs. The Finance Committee will review the requests and prepare a preliminary 2003 budget for the Board's consideration at its November meeting. If the Board requests additional time to consider the budget, we will defer a decision until the December meeting. In any event, we plan to have a budget in place by January 1, 2003.

Whether or not the approved 2003 budget will necessitate a dues increase next year is impossible to predict at this time. Our goal, however, is to approve a budget that is fiscally responsible to maintain, if not improve, our financial health over time and to maintain the quality of our programs and hopefully build on that success over the next several years as well.

Once next year's budget is finalized and approved, I will report the results to you and will also inform you from time to time on our finances as the year progresses.

Whenever you have questions or suggestions, please stop me on campus, give me a call at 703-560-7715, or contact me by e-mail (dcy1@ix.netcom.com).

Don Yesukaitis, Treasurer

Talk about success!

Over 170 guests attended the fall Open House at Tallwood on September 3 and were greeted by LRI members, who showed them our facilities, answered their questions and made sure they helped themselves to the abundant food in the patio. Some became members on the spot.

Many people deserve credit for making this event such a big success. Art Cook organized it, ably assisted by Janice Dewire and her helpers, particularly Ann Shell, Barbara Lynch, Elizabeth Osborn, John DeVoll, Rosemary Reardon and Sandy Driesslein.

Publicity for the event was widespread, thanks to Kathryn Russell and her Publicity Com-

mittee. Thanks also to the mailing crew headed by Carl Opstad for getting out a large mailing of fliers to names supplied by the Elderhostel Institute Network. This kind of teamwork really paid off.

Board meetings open to all

All LRI members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Directors, which are regularly scheduled for 10:00 on the third Friday of each month and usually last about two hours.

Book club selections

October 9: *Confederate in the Attic*, by Tony Horowitz.

November 13: *Prodigal Summer*, by Barbara Kingsolver.

December 11: *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Loudoun senior classes

Former LRI president Ray Beery reports that a new College for Lifelong Learning has opened at the Leesburg campus of Shenandoah University. Call or e-mail Ray for more information (703-723-7148, RBeery@aol.com).

Changes for Tallwood Times

We're thinking about redesigning *Tallwood Times* (some people don't recognize that the art on the masthead is our building!). If you want to help with this project or have a new name to suggest, please let Marjorie White know (marj2whi@aol.com).

CONTRIBUTORS TO "FRIENDS OF LRI"

Many members regularly make contributions when they mail in their registration forms. These "extras" enable LRI to provide more and better services to all members. The lists below show those who contributed from May 30 through September 16, 2002, except for eight who asked that their names not be listed. The Supporters group also includes those whose contributions for the year have totaled or exceeded \$100.

Friends of LRI Supporters

| | | | | |
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| William Ackerman | Carol Henderson | Frances Marlow | Joan Salemi | Audrey Thompson |
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Friends of LRI Donors

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| Patricia Bizier | Polly Fowler | Patricia Leet | David & Gloria Sitrin | |
| Robert Bohall | Harry Gaberman | Chuck Lord | Jean Stephens | |
| Jean Burdett | James Galloway | Roman Lotsberg | Joseph Stone | |

Welcome, New Members

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rita Albright | George Ewing | Pat Kellerman | Hillary Rubin |
| Leslie Andricos | Jerry Ferguson | Tom Kiefaber | Nancy Schade |
| Janet Arthur | Anna Finley | Paul Kulp | Carol Schuster |
| Tom Barnes | Maureen Forcier | Bertrand LaMarche | Adele Sebben |
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| Bonnie Corwin | Lu Guidry | Sue Ann McNamara | Jeri Susi |
| Mary Ann Cusack | Rose Mary Gustin | Benny Meyer | Ron Susi |
| Michael Custy | Estelle Guttman | Pat Most | Ednamae Trevey |
| Margaret deButts | John Hanna | Liz Nelson | Stephen Vandivere |
| Nancy Dickson | Ross Hatch | Joanne Nyberg | Hank Walsh |
| Bernard Doe | Judy Hettinger | Mary Ann Ormes | Marilyn Weary |
| Peggy Dunn | Judy Hoy | Gail Osberg | Susan Weintrob |
| Liz Eckl | Jill Humphries | Peter Poole | Brenda Wynn |
| June Edwards | Earlene Jones | Norma Reck | Charlene Zimmerman |
| Doris Ewing | Ann Kelleran | Judy Riekse | Fred Zimmerman |

WINTER TERM BEGINS JANUARY 27, 2003

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE

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