

# LRI Times



Broadening Horizons  
Together

Published quarterly by Learning in Retirement Institute  
at George Mason University

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January 2003

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Walking Group meets from 8:15 to 9:15 on Tuesdays at Lake Anne Church.

See winter catalog for location and other information on Special Events and Clubs

### **January**

Mon., Jan. 27, Winter term begins  
Wed., Jan. 29, 1:30, Bridge Club  
Wed., Jan. 29, 2:00, Special Event  
Fri., Jan. 31, 9:30—4:00, Special Event bus trip  
Fri., Jan. 31, 10:00, Development Committee

### **February**

Wed., Feb. 5, 1:30, Bridge Club, Fiction Writers Club, History Club  
Wed., Feb. 5, 1:30, Combined Program and Special Events Committees  
Fri., Feb. 7, 2:00, Special Event  
Wed., Feb. 12, 1:30, Book Club, Bridge Club  
Fri., Feb. 14, 10:00, Reston Support Committee  
Fri., Feb. 14, 2:00, Special Event  
Wed., Feb. 19, 1:30, Bridge Club, Fiction Writers Club  
Wed., Feb. 19, 2:00, Special Event  
Fri., Feb. 21, 10:00, Board of Directors  
Fri., Feb. 21, Winter term ends  
Fri., Feb. 21, 2:00, Special Event  
Fri., Feb. 21, SPRING CATALOG MAILED  
Wed., Feb. 26, 10:00, Bridge Club, Investment Forum  
Wed., Feb. 26, 2:00, Philosophy/Nonfiction Book Club  
Thurs., Feb. 27, SPRING REGISTRATION BEGINS  
Fri., Feb. 28, 10:00, Classic Fiction Book Club

### **March**

Wed., Mar. 5, 10:00, Bridge Club, Investment Forum  
Wed., Mar. 5, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club, History Club  
Wed., Mar. 5, 1:30, Combined Program and Special Events Committees  
Thurs., Mar. 6, 8:30—3:00, Special Event bus trip  
Wed., Mar. 12, 10:00, Bridge Club, Investment Forum  
Wed., Mar. 12, 1:30, Book Club  
Fri., Mar. 14, 10:00, Reston Support Committee  
Mon., Mar. 17, SPRING REGISTRATION ENDS  
Wed., Mar. 19, 10:00, Bridge Club, Investment Forum  
Wed., Mar. 19, 1:30, Fiction Writers Club  
Thurs., Mar. 20, CONFIRMATION LETTERS MAILED  
Fri., Mar. 21, 10:00, Board of Directors  
Wed., Mar. 26, 10:00, Bridge Club, Investment Forum  
Wed., Mar. 26, TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH  
Wed., Mar. 26, 2:00, Philosophy/Nonfiction Book Club  
Fri., Mar. 28, 2:00, Classic Fiction Book Club  
Mon., Mar. 31, SPRING TERM BEGINS

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT...**

Welcome! A special welcome to 41 new members. I know we will enjoy getting acquainted. The winter term includes 45 stimulating courses, 8 special events and 8 ongoing activities and clubs. The result reflects another great job by our staff, teachers and volunteers. Well, there are also coffee, tea and cookies, but those are a bonus!

Your Board of Directors is here to serve you. Look for a green nametag that indicates a member of the Board. We are interested in your suggestions and concerns. I would like to comment on some recent actions approved by the Board.

- **Publications.** Based on the recommendations of the Publications Committee, the title of this quarterly newsletter is now *LRI Times*, to better reflect the spirit of the entire organization. The weekly bulletin is now *This Week at LRI*, consistent with its focus on information of immediate interest to the membership.

- **Dues increase.** As indicated in the Treasurer's Corner on the next page, the Board recently approved the 2003 budget that included a number of increases in expenses, including salary adjustments for our committed staff, an increase in support for GMU grants and scholarships, funds for needed equipment repairs and procurement, insurance and professional auditing services. Consistent with the annual review procedure and the need for an increase in the budget in 2003, the LRI dues will be increased by \$10 per year for an annual tuition of \$270, effective with the start of the spring term. Raising the dues is always difficult, but I do feel comfortable that it is a responsible action so we can continue serving the needs of LRI.

Other news:

- ALRI (Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute) will offer courses starting with the spring term 2003. They hope to offer at least 25 courses between April 1 and May 15. Interested persons should contact Doug First at 703-993-3152 or [dfirst@gmu.edu](mailto:dfirst@gmu.edu) for information. LRI continues to work with ALRI as they develop their program.

- LRI and GMU senior managers met on December 4 to discuss issues of mutual interest. Major topics included constructive ways to expand GMU faculty support and involvement in LRI programs, LRI support of GMU, and the short- and long-term future of Tallwood (more likely to be repaired than leveled).

As President I can never say "thank you" enough to our staff, to our teachers, to our committee members and chairs, to those who generously support "Friends of LRI" through financial contributions and to each LRI member. Have a great winter term!

Bob Bohall

### Changes in Board Elections

Last year amendments were made to the LRI by-laws moving the annual meeting to two weeks before the close of the spring term. This means we have new voting procedures this year. Voting will begin at the annual meeting and continue for two weeks. In coming weeks you will be getting details on how this will work, but right now you should start thinking of good candidates for the six vacancies coming up in 2003. If you want to run or if you want the committee to consider other members, get the names to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, John DeVoll. Watch *This Week at LRI* for names of other committee members.

### Tax Tip for Volunteers

Because 2002 income tax returns will soon be due, Don Yesukaiatis points out that if you served as an LRI volunteer or as a volunteer for other charitable, tax-exempt organizations last year and you itemize your income tax deductions, the IRS will allow you a deduction for the cost of certain of your volunteer services. You may deduct the cost of out-of-pocket expenses you paid to do volunteer services but not any amount for the value of your contributed time. According to IRS instructions, if you drove to and from the volunteer work, you may take 14 cents per mile or the actual cost of gas and oil and you can add parking and tolls to the amount you claim. Keep good records to support your deduction. See IRS instructions or your tax adviser for further information.

### Club News

- At the History Club meeting on Wednesday, February 5, at 1:30, Bill Deary will report on a book

about turn-of-the-century U.S.

- The Book Club at Tallwood discusses *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett, on Wednesday, February 12, at 1:30. For the March 12 meeting the book will be *All Over But the Shoutin'*, by Rick Bragg.
- The Philosophy/Nonfiction Book Club will discuss *Creation of Patriarchy*, by Gerda Lerner, on February 26 at 2:00 at the Reston regional library. Call Tom Hartnett (703-481-3402) to get a loan copy.

### Want to Cruise the Volga?

The Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) at NOVA welcomes LRI members on a 22-day Volga River cruise, sponsored by the Peter the Great Travel Agency.

Cities visited go from Moscow to Volgograd. The trip starts September 5. On the 14th and 15th there will be a special reunion at Stalingrad for World War II veterans. The cost of the trip is \$2,999, which covers round-trip air fare, all meals, sightseeing, tours, lectures and entertainment. For more information or a brochure, call John Bogart (703-273-2547).

### Watch Your Step

If you go to the main Tallwood house for any reason, be sure you do not cross any of the yellow Caution tapes. GMU expects to make repairs to the building at some point, but for now we need to restrict the areas we use.

### Treasurer's Corner

The LRI financial year began on January 1, so I want to report to you on adjustments in the budget that will occur this year. Specifically, after much discussion, the Board recently voted to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to increase our 2003 operating expenses by 8.4%, or \$14,275, to \$184,700. The major components of the increase are: (1) \$1,400 to provide enhanced insurance protection for all LRI volunteers and our staff; (2) \$3,500 to conduct an annual audit by an independent CPA firm for the first time in our history; (3) a \$4,000 increase in our annual personnel costs, which represents a 4% total increase over 2002 and is comprised of a combination merit/inflation and time/hours increase in order to continue effective service to members; (4) a \$2,800 increase in our grants/scholarships for George Mason students; and (5) an additional \$1,600 for classroom equipment repairs required to help maintain the quality of our lectures.

The Board also agreed to create a separate capital budget and to increase that budget by \$4,200 to \$10,200 in 2003 in order to purchase needed slide and computerized projectors, a PA system and computers for classrooms as well as one office laptop to replace an outmoded PC.

**With the exception of \$4,800 of the \$6,000 budgeted for George Mason grants and scholarships, the increase in our operating expenses will be funded by a \$10 per member dues increase (a 3.8% increase) that will take effect this spring and the use of cash on-hand at December 31, 2002. The Board also intends to fund the remaining \$4,800 for George Mason grants/scholarships and our \$10,200 capital budget using your discretionary "Friends of LRI" contributions.**

If you have any questions on our financial condition, including the 2003 budget, please stop me on campus, give me a call at 703-560-7715, or send me an e-mail ([dcy1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dcy1@ix.netcom.com)).

Don Yesukaiatis, Treasurer

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### CONTRIBUTORS TO "FRIENDS OF LRI"

The lists below show those who contributed during the calendar year 2002, except for 25 who asked that their names not be listed. Those whose contributions for the year 2002 totaled or exceeded \$100 are shown as Supporters.

#### Friends of LRI Supporters

William Ackerman	William & Mary Ann	Dorothy Kelly	Carl Opstad	Van Vanderwal
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Jeanne Daussin	Harriet Kaplan	William Nicoson	Henry Thompson	

#### Friends of LRI Donors

Barbara Achilles	George Colter	Bill Helmantoler	Stanley Michaels	Anne Solomon
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Colonial Dames	David Harvey, Jr.	Edgar Mentz	David & Gloria Sitrin	
17th Century	John Heffernan	Benny Meyer	Susan Snead	

<p>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.</p>
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**Think Spring, But...**

If we get snow before the robins return, remember LRI's closing policy: LRI is closed when Fairfax County Public Schools are closed for the day because of inclement weather or extraordinary circumstances. We are open when schools start late.

**A Special "Thank You"**

The Holiday Party in December was a big success, despite the snow postponement. About 85 members and guests attended. LRI thanks Harris Teeter, Noodles & Co. and Starbucks at Main Street Marketplace for donating door-prize gift certificates. It's nice to have these friendly neighbors down the street.

**Welcome, New Members**

*Jerry Anderson  
Mary Ann Bowser  
Ellen Cowperthwai  
Mary Crawford  
Lu Ellingwood  
Doris Gibson  
Melvin Gottlieb  
Marilyn Hedtke  
Ray Hine  
Caren Kamberg  
Dottie Kilgore  
Bea Kirby  
Barbara Konigsberg  
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*Charles Meyer  
Kathleen Meyer  
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Carlene Reinhart  
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*Ginny Roberts  
Martha Scanlon  
Joan Schweitz  
Marshall Schy  
Barbara Sitzes  
Mary Stump  
Kathy Tamilin  
Shirley Thompson  
Mary Underwood  
Elizabeth Von Holle  
Joanne Weber  
Betty Winer  
Mary Winsky*

**Volunteers Needed in the Office.** You can help LRI by volunteering to work in the office a few hours each month. The staff will appreciate everything you do, and you will get to know more people and learn more about LRI

**SPRING TERM STARTS MARCH 31**

**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE**  
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