

This Week at LRI

Spring 2003, Issue 4

Editor: Michael Coyne

April 21, 2003

Events This Week

- **Special Event E, Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia**, Wednesday, April 23, 2:00-3:30, Tallwood.
- **Special Event F, University of Virginia & Prince Michel Winery**, bus trip, Friday, April 25, 8:15-4:30. Pickup is at front corner of University Mall, Route 123 and Braddock Road.

Ongoing Activities

- Bridge Club, Wednesday, April 23, 1:30, Tallwood.
- Philosophy/Nonfiction Book Group, *The Tipping Point*, Wednesday, April 23, 2:00, Reston Regional Library.
- Classic Fiction Book Club, Friday, April 25, 10:00, Reston Regional Library.

Other Meetings

- Lunchtime Conversation, Manuel Pablo on public speaking, Monday, April 21, 1:00-2:00, Tallwood.
- Board of Directors, Friday, April 25, 10:00, Tallwood.

Cookie Table Tickets

A reader e-mailed *This Week* to tell us about the free tickets he found on the cookie table in the Social Room. He and his wife went to GMU's Harris Theater for an afternoon that consisted of the University Chorus and a number of singers including LRI Scholarship recipients Meghan McCall and Courtney Ross. He wondered about the tickets: Where did they come from?

Joanne Lingerfelt has the answer. Occasionally, the University sends her tickets in the mail. When they do, she immediately puts them on the cookie table. She never knows when the tickets will arrive or why GMU sends them. But, Joanne says, the tickets always quickly disappear off the table.

Events Next Week

- **Special Event G, Israeli-Palestinian Relationships**, Rabbi Bruce Aft, Wednesday, April 30, 2:00, Tallwood.

Ongoing Activities

- Bridge Club, Fiction Writing Group, both Wednesday, April 30, 1:30, Tallwood.

Committee Meetings

- Program Committee, Friday, May 2, 10:00, Tallwood.
- Reston Support Committee, Friday, May 2, 1:30, Carol Henderson's house.

New LRI Webmaster

The Chair of the Publications Committee, Paul Young, announced in early April that Rod Zumbro had volunteered to take over Allen Montecino's job as the person responsible for LRI's web site. Rod officially took over the job on April 9, and started to work. In making the announcement, Paul said, "Allen has done a fantastic job of handling that job for 10 years."

Actually, Allen has been involved with the automation of LRI for longer than that. He told *This Week* that the web site grew out of the process of computerizing all LRI work in the early 1990s. This included membership and enrollment, session catalog preparation, class registration, the membership directory, and financial records, all of which used to be done without computer assistance. Allen and a few other technically savvy members have brought LRI computer support to its current status. At the start, Allen said, there were only five e-mail accounts in LRI. Today there are over 482 members able to receive e-mail.

As for the web site itself, Allen says he posted some LRI documents on his own site in 1994, but had to wait until GMU gave LRI the disk space and required accounts to set up a true

web site in 1995. LRI was one of the first lifelong learning organizations in the entire Elderhostel International Network to have its own site. After Allen began posting the session catalogs on the site, he realized that the old catalogs themselves comprised a computerized history of LRI activity. He archived them all and set up a search routine for staff and the Program Committee to access them.

In computer parlance, Rod Zumbro is the new LRI webmaster. He brings to the job some 20 years of computer experience and skills learned in setting up his personal web site. Rod's message to all LRI members is:

I invite you to visit and explore the brand-new, completely redesigned LRI Web site. My goal is to make the LRI Web site a one-stop source of as much information about LRI as possible, available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I intend to update the site periodically, so be sure to keep checking the site for breaking news or other updates, especially the "What's New at LRI" page.

If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, just go to the nearest public library, find an Internet terminal and type <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/lri/> in the address field of the Web browser. Any comments or suggestions about the web site should be given to me; there's an e-mail link to "LRI Webmaster" at the bottom of every Web page on the site, or you can send an e-mail to me at rzumbro@gmu.edu or call me at (703) 569-2750.

LRI Scholarships

This year, the Board of Directors approved a third scholarship for George Mason University and raised the amount of each to \$2000. The two older scholarships, the LRI Kathryn Brooks Memorial Scholarship and the LRI Abe Spero Memorial Scholarship, traditionally have been given to New Century College (NCC). The new scholarship, called the LRI Shirley Robock Fox Memorial Scholarship, was given this year to GMU's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

The two awards to NCC have slightly different purposes. Both awards are given to students who show a commitment to "providing service to their community." The Abe Spero award is given to an entering freshman who showed this commitment during high school years. The Kathryn Brooks award goes to an upper level student who has demonstrated commitment during college years.

At the March 26 LRI Celebration of Lifelong Learning lunch, Dr. Janette Muir, Dean of New Century College, announced the recipients of these two scholarships. Dean Muir said of the Abe Spero award:

This year's . . . award goes to **Joanna Stankwicz**, an NCC freshman who is majoring in Integrative Studies with a focus in Legal Studies. JoJo was a very active leader during her high school years in Rome, Georgia, serving as an after school mentor, working on blood drives, recycling projects and food banks.

In announcing the Kathryn Brooks Scholarship, Dr. Muir said:

The Kathryn Brooks award is given this year to **DeeAnn M. Resk**, a junior in Integrative Studies with a focus on Conflict Transformation and Leadership Studies. In her short time in NCC she has participated in many volunteer activities, such as homeless and hunger projects, Habitat for Humanity, and Volunteer Fairfax. She also has been involved in more extensive work with a Summer Institute on International Conflict and Humanitarian Action, and the National Coalition Building Institute

Dr. William Reeder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, thanked LRI for the Shirley Robock Fox scholarship and said the money had been divided among three singers who had shown exceptional promise: **Alexis Haller**, **Meghan McCall**, and **Courtney Ross**. Appropriately, these three women, the lead female singers in the February Department of Music production of *Così Fan Tutte*, were present at the lunch and sang selections from the opera.