

This Week at LRI

Spring 2003, Issue 7

Editor: Michael Coyne

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Events This Week

Special Events

- **Special Event H, *Search and Rescue Dogs—How Do They Do It?*** Wednesday, May 14, 2:00, Tallwood.
- **Special Event I, *Vocal Studies***, Patricia Miller, Friday, May 16, 2:00, Tallwood.

Ongoing Activities

- LRI Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, May 13, 1:00, Jasmine Cafe. *
- Bridge Club, Fiction Writing Group, both meet Wednesday, May 14, 1:30, Tallwood.

Other Events

- Summer Catalog mailed Friday, May 16.

Ten Days Left

Maybe you turned in your ballot for the LRI Board of Directors last Friday after the Annual Meeting. If you didn't do it then you still have until 11:30 on May 22, next Thursday, to turn it in to the LRI office. If you don't have a blank ballot, pick up one from the Tallwood office or from Mathilde at Lake Anne, Reston.

* LRI Lunch Bunch

The Jasmine Cafe is at Lake Anne, 1633-A Washington Plaza. If questions contact Ken Ruttenberg at 703-709-5822 or email him at kennruth@erols.com.

Final EU Classes

The final two sessions of LRI's course *The EU, Turkey and Eastern Europe* are open for any member to attend. This afternoon's session, May 12, will deal with Romania and the EU's southeastern enlargement and will feature two speakers from the Romanian Embassy: Selian Stoian and Cristina Gaginsky. The concluding session next Monday, May 19, will be a dis-

Events Next Week

Ongoing Activities

- Book Club at Tallwood, Wednesday, May 21, 1:30.
- Bridge Club, Wednesday, May 21, 1:30, Tallwood.

Other Events

- Registration begins for summer 2003 session, Thursday, May 22.

cussion on how the war in Iraq has affected European unity. Both sessions will be in TA-1 at 2:00.

Not The Envelope Please

Sometimes things are more complicated than they seem at first. This is what happened to a suggestion to the Board of Directors that it would be helpful to have health data on every LRI member available for emergency personnel in the event of a health emergency at an LRI facility.

A Board member was asked to look into the details. Each member would be invited to write down information on his or her own health situation and put it in a sealed envelope with a name on it. LRI would keep the envelopes handy, but locked up, at Tallwood or at Lake Anne, Reston, ready to give to an emergency worker if the member in trouble could not communicate. But, what to do about members attending both locations? Or members on bus trips, or going to class at other sites? Who would match the name of the person in trouble to the name on the envelope, making a distinction between similar names? Then LRI's official worrier about things legal, Don Yesukaitis, pointed out that by sponsoring the envelopes, LRI might itself become liable if the data were unavailable or not current.

So the idea was scrapped as far as LRI's role was concerned. However, LRI encourages every member who might have a problem to prepare their own envelope and keep it somewhere emergency personnel can find it. Carol Ferrara is looking into the possibility of having a Lunchtime Conversation where someone official can tell us what to include.

Chain Saw Work

A member of the LRI Landscape Crew, LaVonne Kern, is seeking someone with a chain saw to make crosshatch cuts on the top of the big stump in front of Tallwood. She says that attractive planting can be done if there are cuts made to hold soil and roots. This is more complicated than you might imagine. Call LaVonne at 703-250-9739.

Old Computers

Allen Montecino passed along this story about the fate of one of LRI's old machines. It is not easy to get rid of old computers because they usually cannot be sold and they contain toxic materials. Allen contacted a group in Burke, called *Burke Cares*. It is a community organization whose purpose is "...to help members of our community who have resources to come to the aid of members who need those resources." LRI did not even have to travel; the organization came to Tallwood and picked up the old computer.

Later *Burke Cares* told Allen that they were giving the computer to a local family to let it keep in touch via e-mail with a family member who is serving in Iraq. *Burke Cares* will show the family how to set up the e-mail account to send mail to the soldier. They also will teach the family other general computer skills. The organization thinks that in addition to letting the family use e-mail, the computer and associated skills may also benefit them in other ways; perhaps even increase employment prospects for family members.

Ulysses Class

One of the advantages of LRI's association with George Mason University is that GMU encourages its teachers to participate in LRI classes. One example of an outstanding GMU teacher this session is Professor Cólín Owens, who is teaching the *Ulysses* class.

Ulysses is the book by English writer James Joyce that was chosen number one on the list of best 20th century English-language novels. It is about the wanderings and thoughts of several characters in Dublin on June 16, 1904. It is written in a number of different literary styles and is said to have been a main influence on English writing in the 20th Century. It first appeared serialized in 1918 and was banned in the United Kingdom and the US. Copies in this country were seized and burned and a New York court ruled it obscene in 1920. However, in 1934 a Federal Court ruled the book not obscene.



Janet Meisenhelder and Cólín Owens

LRI Class 405 has been making a mighty effort to read and understand something of the book in eight classes, with the aid of Professor Owens' helpful gloss. Each week's reading assignment is three chapters—just one of last week's chapters was 148 pages long! The class started with 45 students, but more than that usually show up in TA-3, a tribute to Professor Owens' popularity. He himself is a native Dubliner. He told *This Week* that his parents met at a Gaelic conference and he learned the Gaelic (Irish) language at home. His name Cólín is Gaelic and is pronounced ko-leen, accented on the last syllable. He has taught a wide variety of courses at George Mason and has written and published widely on Irish drama, literature, and language. He is an officer in the Gaelic League of Washington and a member of the James Joyce Foundation.