

This Week at LRI

Spring 2003, Issue 8

Editor: Michael Coyne

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Events This Week

Ongoing Activities

- Book Club at Tallwood, Wednesday, May 21, 1:30. Selection is *The Hours*.
- Bridge Club, Wednesday, May 21, 1:30, Tallwood.

Other Events

- Registration begins for summer 2003 session, Thursday, May 22.
- Voting for LRI Board ends, Thursday, May 22, 11:30.

Thanks from the Liaison Coordinator

It is time to thank the many people who have made our 2003 winter session so successful: our office staff, our instructors and speakers, our LRI member coordinators, liaisons, and others. If you have suggestions for classes, instructors, activities, or special events or would like to join one of our committees please contact one of the LRI members or staff listed on page 2 of the spring catalog. Also, when you register for your classes for the summer session, please consider checking the blank to become a class liaison.

Arts & Crafts

The Special Events Committee is thinking about holding an arts and crafts fair during the fall or winter session. The Committee would like to know of members who are involved in an art or craft and who would like to exhibit. If interested, contact Velma Berkey, 703-591-6674 or Mary Coyne, 703-435-9721. E-mail addresses are berkeyv@cox.net and mcoyne@his.com.

Short Story Contest Winners

The winners of the LRI short story contest were announced at the Annual Meeting earlier this month.

Paula Schwartz received first prize for her story *Weekend with Aunt Bessie, 1937* about

Events Between Sessions

- Program Committee, Friday, June 6, 10:00, Tallwood.
- Book Club at Tallwood, Wednesday, June 11, 1:30, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan. For info call Ceda McGrew 703-323-9671 or Kathryn Russell, 703-323-0168.
- LRI Board meeting, Friday, June 20, 10:00, Tallwood.
- Check LRI's web site for other events: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/lri/>

an eight-year-old girl who is forced to endure a very unpleasant visit with her aunt and uncle. After Barry Berkey, instructor for LRI's Writing Workshop class, pointed out the excellent structure and character development of Paula's story, Bill Helmantoler read the story for the audience.

Second prize went to Winifred Scheffler for her story *Mirror, Mirror...* about a young woman of exceptional ability who fails to receive the support she needs from her school and her narrow-minded community. *Mrs. Pomeroy's Vigil*, written by Paul Young, won third prize. Paul's story was about a woman whose son is killed in Vietnam and her neighbors' lack of tolerance for her unusual way of memorializing him.

The stories will appear in a future issue of *Fairfax Ink*.

Free GMU Classes

Senior citizens can attend classes at George Mason University free. That's a message Tom Hartnett thinks LRI members should hear. The right to audit courses free is contained in a Virginia State law, the *Senior Citizens Higher Education Act of 1974*, and applies to all State-funded colleges or universities.

So what's the catch? Senior means 60 or older, you have to have been a legal resident of Virginia for one year, you can't take the

place of a student who pays, and you get no official credit. Bill Wohlfeld, former LRI member and columnist for the *Observer Newspapers*, wrote about this topic back in July 2000. He found that many schools have deliberately established barriers designed to keep seniors out of class—rules like not permitting more than one senior citizen free enrollment in a class, regardless of the number of empty seats.

Tom Hartnett, who has taken three classes, thinks that GMU complies with the spirit of the law, but it does have some strict registration rules. Call Tom at 703-481-3492 to learn what you have to do to enroll.

Ongoing Pleasures

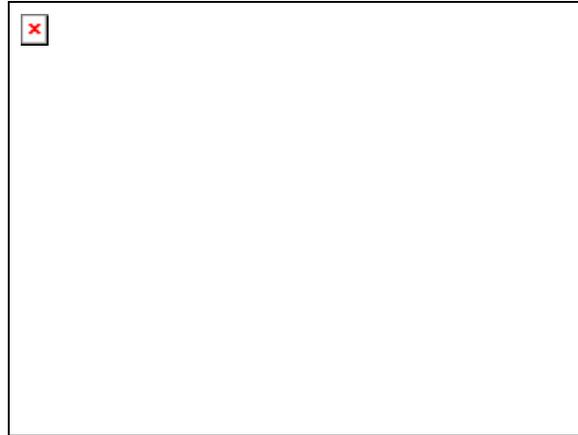
Gloria Sussman's class, *The Ongoing Pleasures of Music*, has been an LRI favorite since the first class in the fall 1999 session at Lake Anne. Even before that, many members attended her classes at the Reston Community Center's Senior Academy.

Ms Sussman, who holds a Master's degree in Musical Education, was a piano teacher in her preretirement years. She coached the Musica Concordia, a nine-member, Reston-based musical group, for much of its 18-year existence, and was an accompanist for the Reston Chorale. Members who attended one of her first LRI classes remember the memorable occasion when the class was held in her home. That class consisted of a duet recital by Ms Sussman and Ms Ellen Winner.

Her classes consist of selections from her own large library of recordings. "Overall, my classes are eclectic." Ms Sussman told *This Week*. She said she takes music from all periods but that each class has an overall theme. The theme for last week's class was humor in music. On another occasion, the theme was "crossover music." She played a classical selection by several singers followed by a pop selection by the same singer.

Modern recording formats, such as DVD, have caused a problem. Her own player would not handle the new formats and music played on LRI equipment through the speaker in the lectern was, in the words of a frequenter of most of her classes "Bad, bad, bad sound." Realizing this, several class

members made donations toward the purchasing of a receiver and quality speakers.



Eric Henderson, Gloria Sussman, Rosemary McDonald. Photo by Abby Edwards

Ms Sussman is active in the Prevention of Blindness Society in Washington and speaks frequently at support groups for the visually impaired. She is usually assisted at her LRI classes by friend Rosemary McDonald.

Annual Meeting Thanks

Art Cook, chair of the Membership Services Committee, writes:

My sincere appreciation to Eileen Duggan, Manny Pablo, and Ann Shell for their help in distributing ballots and door-prize tickets, to Jean Burdett and Sandy Drieslein for a great spread, to Joanne and Jennifer who (as always) kept things "on track," and to all those who stayed around to help clean up.

Thanks to Bob for his interesting and informative report, to the candidates for excellent presentations, and to Bill Helmantoler for his reading of Paula's story.

By my count, somewhere between 70 and 80 (nearer 80, I think) attended what I'd call a very successful event.

LRI Members in Poetry Anthology

The Poetry Society of Virginia will include poems from five present or past members of LRI in its *80th Anniversary Anthology of Poetry*. The LRI poets are Barbara Achilles, Joseph Fulton, Dorothy Millner, Jack Underhill, and Audrey Van Vliet. The Society was founded at the College of William and Mary in 1923. It is the second oldest State Poetry organization in the nation.