

# This Week at LRI

Winter 2004, Issue 2

www.lri.gmu.edu

February 2, 2004

## Events This Week

### **Special Events**

- GMU president, Dr. Alan Merten, Wed., Feb. 4, 2:00, Tallwood TA-1.
- The Library of Congress & National Postal Museum, Fri., Feb. 6, 8:30-4:00, Bus Trip.

### **Meetings**

- None.

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Bridge Club/Scrabble Club, Wed., Feb. 4, 1:30-3:30, Tallwood.
- Fiction Writers' Cycle, Wed., Feb. 4, 1:30, Tallwood.

## Events Next Week

### **Special Events**

- Overview of Urban Wildlife, Wed., Feb. 11, 2:00-3:30, Tallwood.

### **Meetings**

- Nominating Committee, Wed., Feb. 11, 2:00, Tallwood.
- Program and Special Events Committee, Fri., Feb. 13, 10:00, Tallwood.

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Walking Group, Tues., Feb. 10, 8:15-9:15, Lake Anne Plaza.
- Bridge Club/Scrabble Club, Wed., Feb. 11, 1:30-3:30, Tallwood.
- Book Club at Tallwood, Wed., Feb. 11, 1:30-3:00.
- History Club, Wed., Feb. 11, 1:30, Tallwood.

## **Spotlight on LRI Office Volunteers**

There are always many more tasks in our office than can be done by our paid staff, so members who assist with these perform a valuable service for all of us at LRI. Registration time keeps them particularly busy, taking and logging registrations, working on class confirmation letters, and making phone calls. When needed, they also contact members who do not have e-mail, help with mailings, sometimes make building repairs, and have become adept at crisis management. During this time of transition in the LRI staff, office volunteers are needed more than ever.

Special thanks go to Van Vanderwal, who assists every Thursday, and Art Cook, who comes in every other Wednesday. Other LRI members who have helped in the office in recent days are: Margaret Andino, Ruth Bartman, Bob Bohall, Sue Houser, Barbara Jones, Barbara Lynch, Layne McRae, Faith Olson, Elizabeth Osborn, Rosemary Ostling, Judy Riekse, Ann Shell, Hannelore Smallfield, Virlinda Snyder, Carol Towse, Connie Vihstadt, and Doreen Williams.

If you have some free time and would like to help in the office, please contact Jennifer. Thank you!

## **LRI Open on Monday, February 16**

LRI is scheduled to be in session on Presidents Day, February 16, despite the fact that Fairfax County Public Schools are closed.

## Suggestions

Most of the suggestions we receive in the LRI suggestion box concern things that the board, committee chairs and administrative staff can do to improve the LRI experience (classes, facilities, etc.). But here's one suggestion we received which applies to all LRI members, so we want to pass it along.

SUGGESTION: Now that the new semester is here, it might be a good time to remind our members of classroom etiquette.

·Try to arrive on time. If you enter after the class has started, make every attempt to find a seat via the back of the room rather than walk in front of the speaker, and check your name on the attendance sheet after the class is over.

· If you wish to comment or ask a question, please remember to raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged by the speaker rather than interrupt the speaker by calling out your question or comment.

·Please respect your classmates by not dominating the class period with your own questions/comments. Let others have a chance, and remember that your classmates came to hear the speaker.

·Please be mindful that it is discourteous to the speaker and distracting to your fellow members if you spend your time in class talking to your neighbor, filing your nails, knitting, dozing off, or doing other such things rather than paying attention.

·In summary, remember that our speakers are giving us the benefit of their experience, knowledge and time. Express your appreciation by showing interest in the presentation and observing classroom etiquette.

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## Ice Cream Social

Remember the date, Friday, February 13, from 1:00 to 3:00, in TA-1 and mark your calendar. The Membership Committee is sponsoring this event to honor volunteers and to give all members an opportunity to socialize, eat ice cream, and discover how each one of us can facilitate the workings of LRI by volunteering. The Membership

Committee hopes to see all current and potential volunteers at the event. Don't fear any myth of Friday, the Thirteenth. Ice cream and a warm welcome will ward off all evil spirits. Attend and enjoy.

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## New Scrabble Club Continues

The newly formed Scrabble Club will meet on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30, in TA-3, along with the Bridge Club throughout the winter term. During the term breaks, the club meets from 10 to noon in the same room. Margaret Andino would appreciate hearing from those interested. The Club works with two or three to a table, not more than that number.

## Spring Short Story Contest

The LRI Fiction Writing Club invites all LRI members to take part in a short story contest. The deadline for entries is April 16. The winner will receive a prize of \$50 and publication in *Fairfax Ink*.

Stories should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 5,000 words in length. There are no restrictions regarding style or subject matter, and LRI members may submit as many stories as they wish. Each story should be accompanied by a \$5 reading fee (which will pay for the prize and a small honorarium to the judge). The contest will be judged blind by a person who is not a member of LRI, so the title of the story should appear on each page of the manuscript, but the author's name should not appear on the manuscript. The author's name, story title, and word count should appear on a detachable cover sheet.

Checks for the reading fee should be made payable to LRI, and the manuscripts may be left at the LRI office. If you have questions about the contest, please contact Peter Poole.