

This Week at LRI

Spring 2004, Issue 5

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April 26, 2004

Events This Week

Special Events

- The Battle of Gettysburg, Wed., Apr. 28, 2:00-3:30, Reston Community Center.
- Paula Schwartz Memorial Service, Sun., May 2, 2:00-5:00 (see page 2).

Meetings

- Membership Committee, Fri., Apr. 30, 10:00, Tallwood.

Ongoing Activities

- Walking Group, Tues., Apr. 27, 8:15-9:15, Lake Anne Church.
- Bridge Club/Scrabble Club, Wed., Apr. 28, 1:30-3:30, Tallwood.

Events Next Week

Special Events

- None

Meetings

- Special Events Committee, Wed., May 5, 1:30, Tallwood.
- Annual Meeting, Fri., May 7, 10:00, Tallwood.

Ongoing Activities

- Walking Group, Tues., May 4, 8:15-9:15, Lake Anne Church.
- Fiction Writers' Club, Wed., May 5, 1:30-3:30, Tallwood.
- History Club, Wed., May 5, 2:00, Tallwood.
- Bridge Club/Scrabble Club, Wed., May 5, 1:30-3:30, Tallwood.

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Allen Montecino Leaving

Allen J. Montecino Jr., LRI volunteer without peer, will be moving to Maryland this summer and has resigned from the LRI Board effective May 1. At its April 16 meeting, the Board recognized Allen's many contributions to LRI since he joined in 1992. He taught 26 history and Internet courses, was a Board member for ten years, served as Treasurer, chair of Administration, Facilities, and University Liaison Committees, was a member of several others, was instrumental in acquiring the modular units at Tallwood, in developing GMU scholarship award programs, in computerizing the office, in training staff on hardware and software, and in establishing an LRI Website and maintaining it for ten years. These services and a variety of others by Allen have helped to make LRI a successful and effective senior learning organization.

From Janice Dewire and the Administration Committee and staff, Allen received a humorous teddy bear with name tags from individual members. On behalf of the Board and the many Montecino admirers, Michael Styles presented him with a framed poetic tribute composed by Page Styles. The concluding stanza reads:

He's a jack-of-all-trades, a willing worker to boot!
From computer to A-V equipment, and caring for the
treasury loot!
It'll never be the same.
So though we all will miss you
We're mighty glad you came!

We are sure that all of Allen's many LRI students and colleagues over the years share those sentiments and wish him well in his post-retirement retirement.

Source: Carol Henderson

Simon Says Music at LRI

The Ongoing Pleasures of Music taught by Gloria Sussman at LRI in Reston took on a very pleasurable twist on April 12 when the musical selections were chosen by LRI member Robert Simon. Bob is also the founder of Reston; his 90th birthday and Reston's 40th anniversary were celebrated this month. Gloria surprised Bob by finding recordings of some of his eclectic favorites, and LRI member Rosemary McDonald surprised him with a birthday cake decorated with musical notes. After singing Happy Birthday, the class made short work of the cake and enjoyed the upbeat music and Bob's comments about his choices.

Bob's family owned a major interest in Carnegie Hall after his father and a group of investors purchased the hall at a time when it was in danger of being torn down. Bob's growing up involved contact with a number of composers and performers. The later sale of Carnegie Hall provided the resources for him to fund the concept of Reston. His involvement with music is intertwined with the concept of a planned community.

Three short anecdotes will show the diverse nature of the Simon selections. A Shostakovich piano trio was chosen because Bob himself had performed it on the piano as part of a trio. Switching to Broadway, he noted that he and Frank Loesser both knew the real Amy of Loesser's "Once in Love with Amy" (it was Loesser's aunt). As a lad of 15, Bob's school music club invited George Gershwin, an alumnus of the school, to come and play. They never told anyone at the school, so when Gershwin showed up he was led to a basement practice room instead of to a packed auditorium. Surprised but delighted by the group of twelve boys, his impromptu session on the piano included a spectacular 20-minute improvisation on "Lady Be Good."
Source: Carol Henderson

Reminder

May 7 and the annual Meet-the-Candidates meeting is next week. If you are planning to contribute goodies to the Pot Luck for nibbling while you interrogate the candidates for the six Board vacancies, now is the time to get started. As announced a few weeks ago, any "finger food" that is ready to serve and does not require refrigeration or heating will be welcome. Just bring it to Tallwood by 9:30, Friday May 7, hear the candidates and enjoy the company of your fellow LRI members.

Source: Art Cook

Watercolor Exhibition

A new exhibition of watercolor paintings is in the Annex Room. Members of Harriet Grever's watercolor painting class display the products of their hard work and talent during the second half of the Spring Session. They are intermediate level artists who jointly select subjects to be painted and who participate in critiques of the group members' work.

Source: Marvina Munch

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service has been planned for the late Paula Schwartz on Sunday, May 2, from 2:00 to 5:00. The service will be held at the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Paula died on December 21, 2003.

Friends of Paula are welcome to attend, and those who wish to do so are encouraged to say a brief piece concerning their relationship with Paula. The service is being coordinated by Lyda Rochmis, who may be contacted for additional information at 703-435-3841.
