

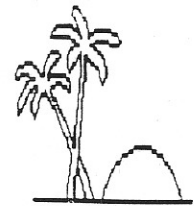
# Learning in Retirement News

George Mason University, 4085 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Volume 1, Number 2

Sharing Experience

June 1991



## Calendar

**June 3** -- Curriculum Committee starts on fall course proposals, and finishes by June 21.

**12** -- The Party at 11242 Waples Mill Road from 2 to 4 pm. Workshops and socializing. Bring a friend. Sign up for summer trips.

**18** -- Board Meeting in Room 215 at 10 am. All members invited.

**July 10** -- Trip to the National Cathedral. Call Martha Poling at 356-0963 by July 5.

**12** -- Publicity Committee meets to organize the fall publication of courses and membership drive. -- Board Meeting in 215 at 10 am. Members always encouraged to attend.

**August 6** -- Trip to Center for Innovative Technology. Call Bill Cooley at 591-3379 by July 26.

**9** -- Board Meeting 10 am.

**16** -- Mail fall course listing.

and in **September** -- Teachers' Conference with Curriculum Committee. -- Board Meeting. -- "Open House." -- registration for fall. **September 23** -- Classes start.

**Keep LRI/GMU on your calendar this summer.** The office is open 9 to 12 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

## Kathryn Brooks Speaking

Here we are at the conclusion of our first set of classes, and, from what I see and hear, this term has been the great success that we expected it would be as a beginning to a growing program. Let us keep up the good work. Come to the Celebration Party on June 12 prepared to analyze our past, plan our future, and exchange ideas for growth and improvement. Also, please, be prepared to volunteer your services for any job from clerical to teaching. Whatever you can or wish to do is useful and will enhance the program.

LRI is established as a member run organization. So, I am glad to see that the Suggestion Box has not been ignored, and your suggestions will be incorporated in our future plans.

## LRI at Southern Conference

Shirley Fox, curriculum chair, and Carol Ferrara, LRI coordinator, represented the Institute at the Southeast Conference of Institutes for Learning in Retirement on May 17 and 18 in Asheville, North Carolina. The Elderhostel Institute Network, which arranges senior education and travel programs, organized the conference for some 20 southeastern LRIs to share experiences, problems and solutions.

Fox and Ferrara have a lot to report on the progress of the many new institutes like ours throughout the south. Please come to the June 12 party to hear the conference reports and help work out the applications to our organization. Watch the "Calendar" for announcements of other Elderhostel conferences; we could have had more folks there. Eleven institutes made presentations on curriculum development, recruiting new members, and reaching out to other campus or community leaders.

See page 3 for more on the LRIs.

**Thanks to** the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for donation of chairs and a filing cabinet; to KB for a wall clock; to George Bain for office management software for our desk computer. And special thanks to the Teachers.

### It Would be Grand

The Institute is looking for class coordinators on music appreciation, classical or popular. Member June Williams has suggested a class on the opera and a day trip to the Metropolitan in New York in November. Do you know someone who could relate music classes to the performances at the GMU Institute of the Arts for the 91-92 season? Interested in the Met or campus performances? Call with a message to 385 - 1593 by July 1. The phone records anytime.

### A Teacher You Ought to Know

Octogenerian John Holden teaches "World Peace through World Law." An active member of the World Federalists, he lobbies the Congress and the White House for a stronger United Nations. He keeps fit with daily swims and tennis.



Please **Sign Up** for July and August trips at the June 12 party and save extra phone calls.

### Trip to Museum of Women in the Arts

Those who went enjoyed a pleasant and informative outing. Unfortunately most of those who signed up did not come along. LRI's concept for these trips is to have a qualified interpretive guide; this one was our president.

When you sign up, you are expressing interest and making a commitment. Many who signed up did not come. In the future please let Carol Ferrara or the trip leader know.

### New Books of Ideas That Can Change Minds

"Schools of Thought: the Politics of Literacy" by Rexford Brown. Raising young students' performance by asking for critical thinking.

"Strangers at the Bedside" by David Rothman. Concern over lawyers worrying doctors.

"Begin Here" by Jacques Barzun. Teaching and learning are not just what you were taught.

"The Sun Also Sets" by Bill Emmott. Japan has problems. What if it behaved like the rest?

"The Prize" by Daniel Yergin. Oil's history of flowing around and over governments.

"Stalin in Power" by Robert Tucker. The reasons behind the greatest unsolved murders.

.....send in your suggestions with a review attached.

### LRI News Seeks Contributors

Share your news and scholarly views.

Send in your copy or suggestions for features. Copy preferred on 8 x 11 inch white paper, unruled, generous margins top, bottom, and both sides, always double-spaced, typed or printed clearly, listing your name and phone number, page numbers.

Send your copy to the LRI coordinator at least ten days before the deadline announced in the prior News.

If you are interested in learning or working on computer desktop publishing or graphic arts for the Institute, speak up.

Next LRI News copy deadline --August 1.

Kathryn Brooks, President,

Shirley Fox, Vice President,

Carol Ferrara, Program Coordinator,

Garrett Ruhl, Editor.

call 385-1593 anytime

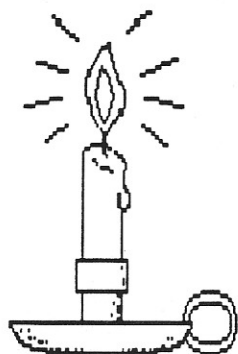
## *LRI / GMU is not alone.*

In the National Capital Area we are quite familiar with the network of associations. Well, Learning in Retirement Institutes have a national association: the Elderhostel Institute Network. The "elder" part is defined by each member organization. The "hostel" is an ancient word for an inn, a refuge for all those travelling the road of life.

The national Elderhostel Institute Network has about 100 member organizations. Each Institute is independent and unique to its community.

There is no model, but there are **common ideals:**

- university-level course work.
- membership under by-laws.
- member decision-making and involvement.
- participation by those who seek further learning without regard to their prior educational level.
- hospitality through social events and field trips.



## Create enlightenment.

### What can you do ?

Join, contribute services, teach or assist, recruit, publicize, share your experiences, keep on learning.

## How do we compare?

We have less than one years experience, but are already "above-average." Some LRIs don't have the members as teachers but hire them. For size at about 100 we are among the larger ones in the southeast U.S. where the program is newer than in New England. Institutes are generally affiliated with colleges and universities.

## What is our potential?

For course content we can offer whatever interests the members; LRIs range widely from "how-to" to "why."

There is an LRI affiliated with American University in the District of Columbia with about 9 years experience, and a membership of about 400.

We are fortunate in having a large prospective population from which to attract members .

Fairfax County has one of the highest college and postgraduate educated populations in the nation. It also has a high income level for optional spending by the retired. In 1990 over 100,000 people in Fairfax County were age 55 and over; at the beginning of the next century there will be over 200,000.