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Published by the
Learning in Retirement Institute
at George Mason University

LRI news

VOL. 1, NO. 5

DECEMBER 1991

CALENDAR

December

Tues., Dec. 17, 10 AM Curriculum
Committee meeting

Tues., Dec. 17, 11 AM Board meeting

Wed., Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 LRI closed
but receiving mail registrations
for winter term

January

Thurs., Jan. 2 Registration closes
for winter term

Tues., Jan. 7, 10 AM Curriculum
Committee meeting

Mon., Jan. 13 Winter term starts
for four weeks

Wed., Jan. 15, 10 AM Board meeting

February

Fri., Feb. 7 Winter term ends

Tues., Feb. 11, 10 AM Curriculum
Committee meeting

Tues., Feb. 18, 10 AM Board meeting

March

Sat., Mar. 14 First annual member-
ship meeting to elect new officers
and Board members

Mon., Mar. 23 Spring term starts

Kathryn Brooks Speaking

How sweet it is! We have just con-
cluded our second series of classes,
and they were so interesting (enter-
taining?) that some groups scheduled
one or more additional meetings and
even arranged off-campus dinners.
A great idea.

Mark your calendars now for March
14 and plan to participate in the
first annual meeting of LRI. The
Nominating Committee, headed by **Audrey
Markham**, will present a slate of
four officers and at least five Board
members, and nominations will be
accepted from the floor if the person
nominated has agreed to serve. Please
be there on March 14. LRI needs
your input.

I want to give a special thanks
to **Dorothy Milner** of the Curriculum
Committee for organizing the winter
term and to **Garrett Ruhl** for
assembling the enclosed catalog on
his computer.

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE

President	Kathryn Brooks
Vice President	Shirley Fox
Editor	Garrett Ruhl
Assistant Editor	Marjorie White

WINTER ALERT: When Fairfax County schools are
closed or opening late, as reported by local
media, LRI will be closed.

FORUM REPORTS

LRI members who attended the four forums presented during the fall term heard some interesting speakers and discussions. Look for announcements about new forums in the coming months.

Sarah Lawless, Director of the Institute of the Arts at GMU, said she sees the mission of the arts institute as making the performing arts accessible to all of the 20,000 GMU students. She feels that the arts can cause "a significant development in the intellectual perspective, social values and creative curiosity of the students." She has introduced an educational component with pre-performance lectures and says students can take inter-disciplinary courses, such as "Symmetry: Art in Science, Science in Art."

Dr. Keith Blurton, General Manager of Technology Development and Commercialization for the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), spoke to a forum about the Virginia Center's role for universities and industry. CIT funds research, licenses technology and provides services, such as identifying industrial needs to university researchers. Companies get proprietary rights in patentable results, and universities share in the profits. Virginia colleges have programs in biotechnology, computer-assisted design, advanced materials, and space and environmental technology.

Ken Billingsly, Director of Information and Demographic Services at the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission, encouraged members of LRI to examine the meaning of the demographic changes in our rapidly growing Northern Virginia area. He discussed the changes in the area from one of a bedroom community, dependent on the District, to that of a center of business and commerce in its own right. Growing numbers of women in the work force, increases in immigration, and the change in family size and structure were examined as was their impact on Northern Virginia's needs for education, transportation and other public services. LRI members voiced their ideas and enjoyed a lively session of questions and discussion.

Dr. Stephen M. Schaffer, Deputy Director of the Office of Research of USIA, explained his agency's work on public opinion research around the world and the use made of the research in setting U.S. policies. Some 80 to 85 polls are done overseas each year. He noted that polling in connection with the Gulf War was the most extensive ever done and the first time hard research of this nature had been done in Arab countries.

CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

A tally of the evaluation sheets turned in after the fall term shows strong interest in these subjects: Current Events, Supreme Court's Most Important Cases, U.S. Policy Issues, The Balkans, China, The Immigrant Experience, Behind the Smithsonian, Art Appreciation, Opera Appreciation, How to Listen to Music, World Religions, and Shakespeare.

"Behind the Smithsonian" and "China" will be offered in the winter term. The Curriculum Committee will try to find teachers for the other most-wanted courses and would appreciate hearing of qualified persons. Many members also asked that present courses be continued, and other new courses were suggested.

Friday was the least popular day for classes, with Monday a close second. We will try to schedule six classes each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and use Monday and Friday mostly for meetings, forums and trips. Mornings were preferable to afternoons, but we will have to schedule afternoon classes to accommodate the curriculum.

LRI'S SENIOR OLYMPIAN MEDALIST

Picture a trim Miss Marple in a running suit. That's **Birdie Hughes** winning six medals in the 1991 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in the fall. Over 500 seniors competed. Birdie, an LRI member who took the "Creative Retirement" course last term, pulled gold medals in archery, basketball and frisbee and took silvers in baseball (distance) and horseshoes, and a bronze in baseball (accuracy).

LRI'S ABOUT-TO-BE-PUBLISHED POET

Barbara Achilles, a student in **Evelyn Wade's** "Poetry Writing Workshop," has had a poem accepted for publication in A Sense of Ocean and Old Trees, Volume 5 of a multi-volume set of collected poetry titled "The Poet's Domain." This anthology, published by ROAD Publishers, contains the work of poets from Virginia, Maryland and D.C. Evelyn Wade has had

four of her poems selected for the forthcoming volume, to be published in mid-February 1992.

GOOD EATING AFTER CLASSES

Charles Cremeans invited students in his class on "The Middle East: Social and Cultural Aspects" to his home the week after the fall term ended. About 40 people, including spouses, enjoyed a lavish spread of Middle Eastern food, with everyone bringing a dish to share. Charles showed photographs and artifacts from his travels in the area, and his guests agreed that the evening was a wonderful way to wind up this popular course.

At press time, members of **Garrett Ruhl's** class on "Reinventing the U.S.S.R" were looking forward to a dinner at the home of **Bertha Elkin**. Everyone contributed a small sum toward the expenses, but Bertha, who was raised in China by Russian parents, insisted on doing all the cooking for a traditional Russian meal.

LRI SPREADS THE WORD

LRI has recently participated as an exhibitor at three local programs focused on senior citizens.

The Northern Virginia Healthy Older Virginians Coalition sponsored a day-long symposium at NOVA for some 30 professional care-givers and social workers. LRI staffed a table with literature, media releases and pictures giving a history of our development and progress since our first term. Many participants in the meeting commented favorably on the value of LRI's mission, and all anticipated referring their clients as possible members.

LRI presented information at a meeting of the Springfield Mall Senior Citizens Group, which meets for a continental breakfast and a movie on the first Thursday of each month. Some 400 people take part in this monthly event.

The LRI table was of great interest at the Health Fair put on by Elder Options, Chevy Chase, Md., in coordination with Hunter's Woods Fellowship House in Reston. Several former teachers at Fellowship House indicated they might be interested in teaching courses at LRI.

Carol Ferrara and several LRI members, including **Audrey Markham**, **Lilburne Sheats**, **Ed Hill** and **Frank McMahon**, staffed the LRI tables at these events. The exhibits and the personal contacts resulted in some 60 individuals signing up for further information. Anyone interested in helping to staff LRI tables at future events should sign up now for the LRI Speakers Bureau. This is clearly an excellent way to spread the word about LRI so we can acquire new members, teachers and sponsors.

COMING: LRI'S FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The first annual meeting of LRI is set for March 14, 1992. We will be voting on new officers and at least five new members for the Board of Directors. A slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee and a copy of the By-laws will be sent to members at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Members can also make nominations from the floor if the person nominated has agreed to serve.

The Institute has been governed to date by the founding Board of Directors with the help of member volunteers. Now it is your chance to be heard, so come to the meeting and help decide the future of the Institute.

Good news: LRI has just received 501(c)3 status from IRS, so contributions are tax-deductible.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR LRI?

You care about continuing education for seniors, so what can you do to help the LRI/GMU program grow and improve? Recruit new members, help publicize LRI, suggest course subjects, teach or assist a teacher, raise funds, join a committee, organize a study group, work in the office three hours a week.

Don't wait to be asked...VOLUNTEER!

And if you have any of the following items you'd like to donate, they would be most welcome:

- Blackboard
- Projection screen
- Slide projector
- Laser printer
- Portable microphone system
(for borrowing occasionally)
- 2 large coffee pots (20-30 cups)
- Sugar and creamer
- Printer stand