

LRI news

VOL. 3, NO. 6

DECEMBER 1993

CALENDAR

December

Thurs., Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
Board of Directors meeting followed by
Membership Committee meeting

January

Mon. Jan. 3
Registration deadline for Winter term

Thurs., Jan. 20, 10 a.m.
Board of Directors meeting followed by
Membership Committee meeting

Mon., Jan. 24
Winter term classes begin

February

Tues., Feb. 1, 2-4 p.m.
Special Event: Ham Radio Demonstration

Thurs., Feb. 3, 11 a.m.
Special Event: Tour Home of the Future

Tues., Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m.
Special Event: Advice on Video Cameras

Thurs., Feb. 10, 10:10 a.m.
Special Event: Tour Diplomatic Rooms

Thurs., Feb. 17, 10 a.m.
Board of Directors meeting followed by
Membership Committee meeting

Thurs., Feb. 17, 1 p.m.
Special Event: Book Reading/Luncheon

Board of Directors

PresidentLilyan Spero

Vice President.....Laura Cambern

Treasurer.....Ed Swoboda

Secretary.....Michael Styles

Vincent Boylan Shirley Fox Dorothy Millner

Kathryn Brooks Flora Hedblom Allen Montecino

William Cooley Judith Lieberman Garrett Ruhl

Janice Dewire Audrey Markham Henry Shenker

Martha Ford Frank McMahon

Coordinator: Carol Ferrara

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When the Learning in Retirement Institute started its first semester, all classes could be scheduled in two classrooms that George Mason University provided at 4085 University Drive, otherwise known as Commerce II. As word spread about this new way for senior adults to share their learning experiences, the number of classes grew along with the increased membership, and finding classroom space became a scramble each semester.

For nearly three years your Board of Directors and those responsible for scheduling courses have been seeking classroom space wherever it could be found in the area. We've used space in four other buildings, including Fairfax City Hall and the Court House. LRI is grateful to a good many officials for their generous help in allowing us use of these rooms.

All along, though, we've kept in mind that what LRI needs is a home of its own, a place that would accommodate all of our classes and let us mingle with each other between classes and at lunch.

We are getting closer to finding such a place, and I hope before long I'll be able to announce to the membership that LRI does indeed have a home of its own.

Meanwhile, I urge you to look over the Winter Catalog and note the array of course offerings. There are more of them than we've ever had before during this short four-week semester, thanks to the hard work of the Curriculum Committee. Five Special Events are scheduled, and other social activities are being planned. The pot luck lunch that Mary Shea arranged in late October was a big success, so we can expect more such occasions in the months ahead.

As always, we need your suggestions and criticisms, your volunteer time, and your recruitment of new members. The more we grow, the more we will be able to do in the future.

Lilyan Spero, President

A Talent Bank for Women

Women represent slightly over 50% of the Fairfax County population, but they hold only 32% of the appointments to the County's 90 boards, authorities and commissions. To remedy this unequal representation, the County is developing a Talent Bank so that the Board of Supervisors will have qualified candidates to consider when vacancies occur. Many of the advisory groups have community impact.

Some LRI women members may want to consider applying to the Talent Bank because they can offer both gender perspective and mature judgment and experience. Application guidelines and a list of County advisory groups are available from the Office for Women, 324-5730.

Volunteer Opportunities

Three different areas of community need may interest LRI members looking for significant volunteer opportunities.

1. The Early Identification Program of George Mason University identifies high school students who have academic potential but are not working up to their abilities. It encourages them to consider attending college and works with them to develop their academic potential. Admission to GMU is guaranteed those who successfully complete this program and an academic program in high school. The program needs volunteer tutors to work one on one with students on their regular classroom assignments and on special projects.

You can find out more about this worthy program by call Hortensia Cadenas, the Director, at 993-3120.

2. Those who took the Fall semester course on the Fairfax County Criminal Justice System, arranged by Ellen Gale, were treated to an outstanding group of speakers and gained new insight into the work of the courts, much of which is unknown to the general public. There are a number of areas in which LRI members could perform much-needed assistance. To talk about the possibilities, call Carol Coile, 246-4908, the Volunteer Services Coordinator in the Juvenile and Domestic District Court. She will help you assess where your skills and talents could best be used.

3. Several schools in the area are looking for specific types of technical or scientific tutoring. LRI members with background in such fields can find out more by contacting Bill Cooley, 591-3379, who is compiling a data base of available tutors.

What Is the Network?

Like over 125 other LRI-type organizations around the country, the LRI at George Mason University is a member of the Elderhostel Institute Network. The Network was started in 1988 as a component of Elderhostel, Inc., the nonprofit organization that offers courses around the world to seniors.

The Network helps start new LRIs and spreads the word about new and successful programs that its member affiliates are running. It also conducts state and regional conferences that give members of different institutes a chance to meet and exchange ideas on planning curriculum, promoting membership and recruiting volunteers. In addition, it sets up study/travel programs, both domestic and international for members of affiliated institutes.

Its primary goal is to promote the idea of learning among senior adults through organizations like ours.

Board member Audrey Markham serves as our liaison to the Elderhostel Institute Network and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Getting the Word Out

If you've wondered how LRI gets mentioned in the newspapers and on radio and TV stations, the answer is the Publicity Committee, headed by Judith Lieberman, with Lilburne Sheets as co-chairman. The committee is a group of hard-working people who are always looking for news items that will bring the name of LRI before the public. That's how more people find out about LRI and get interested in joining.

Serving on the Publicity Committee this year are Charlotte Boyce, William Deary, Paul Gruendl, Helene Layman, Wilfred Palmer, Ruth Shields and Edward Swoboda.

The committee is looking for new members who enjoy this kind of activity. As Judith says, "New people bring new ideas, and new ideas make good publicity." If you want to contribute to this effort, call her at 803-7954 or Lilburne at 273-4205.

Spotlight on . . .

ELEANOR MORROW

Over the years of traveling we all have had the experience of meeting new people in new places. Now that time permits, we have the opportunity for making wonderful new friends at LRI. One who meets the description of a wonderful new friend is Eleanor Morrow. She is an active member of the Curriculum Committee and has been responsible for organizing five courses. The Curriculum Committee can no longer hide her talents. She is LRI's secret weapon when we are down to the wire and in need of one more course.

Eleanor was born in Monroe County, N.Y., later moved to Reno, Nev., and then completed her high school years at Berkeley High School in California. She attended the University of California at Berkeley before getting her Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia's School of Business in 1929. Thirty years later this education-minded woman was awarded her Master's degree in Education by George Washington University.

Eleanor's working career began at the YWCA in York, Pa., organizing clubs for young girls employed in the factories. In 1931 she enrolled for a summer session at the University of Wisconsin, where she met and married Malcolm Morrow, after a short love-at-first-sight courtship.

She and Malcolm, a statistician, were both employed by the Relief Department

of Milwaukee when he was asked to come to Washington for a position with the W.P.A. They moved to Annadale, Va., on June 1, 1937. Eleanor and Malcolm had three children. Malcolm was a builder in his spare time, and as Eleanor says, "We built Pleasant Ridge." Eleanor and Malcolm celebrated their 50th anniversary one year prior to his death. Eleanor now proudly claims seven grandchildren. The Morrow family home was finally sold to the Fairfax Park Authority, and the acreage has been named the Packard Center in tribute to Fred Packard, the first director of the Fairfax Park Authority.

During the years Eleanor has lived in Northern Virginia, her volunteer activities have included the schools, politics and her church. She also taught for five years in the Fairfax County school system.

Eleanor has organized a course for LRI's winter session entitled "Fairfax Recollections," and she has invited friends to recount their memories of our Northern Virginia area as it has changed over the years. Eleanor will be in each class, sharing her memories as well, and you can be sure they will be as vivid and interesting as she herself is.

Eleanor, it is indeed a privilege to know you.

Janice Dewire



Short Subjects

You will notice something new in the Winter catalog, a course titled "Short Subjects." Actually, it's three unrelated, one-time courses, all scheduled for Mondays.

The Curriculum Committee found that some potential course leaders either did not have time to prepare a four- or eight-week course or felt they could cover a subject in just one session. Grouping these one-timers together adds to the range of subjects LRI is offering this semester.

Other LRI members may want to consider presenting a course in this one-time format for the Spring or Summer sessions. If so, contact Ellis Woody, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee.

Parking on the New Deck

When you're going to the GMU campus, especially if you're headed for Mason Hall or the Center for the Arts or the Harris Theater, your best parking bet could be the new parking deck. It's open seven days a week. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday 6 to 10 p.m. Weekend hours are extended when there is an event occurring at the Center for the Arts or Harris Theater.

The cost for using the deck is \$1 per hour with a maximum cost of \$5 per day. When the deck is used for an event at the Center or the Theater, there is a flat rate of \$3.

LRI's Wish List

Somehow it seems unlikely that Santa is going to drop off a TV set and a VCR at LRI, but perhaps some members can play Santa and donate these items, which are needed for classroom use. Remember that all donations and contributions to LRI are tax-deductible.

Help LRI Grow

The Membership Committee is actively looking for volunteers. Its goals are to foster a sense of community among current members and to double our membership during 1994. You can help plan and carry out programs to meet these goals. Call Betty MacKenzie (323-5711), Betty Carlson (273-4474) or Frank McMahon (281-7717) for information.

NOTE: The LRI office will be closed from Dec. 23 - Jan. 3. Messages on the answering machine will be monitored during that period.

Switching Classes

Have you wished later that you had signed up for a particular course? Perhaps you've heard another member praising it or you've become newly interested in the subject. If there's space available, you are welcome to join any LRI class. All you have to do is ask Carol Ferrara at the office whether space is available or ask the course leader directly.

Introduce Your Friends to LRI

One way to let your friends see what LRI is all about is to bring them to one of the Special Events that are open to guests. During the Winter term, members may bring guests to three events: An Afternoon With a Ham Operator, Tuesday, Feb. 1; Get the Most out of Your Video Camera, Tuesday, Feb. 8; and the Book Reading and Luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 17.

Indicate on your Registration Form in the catalog that you will be bringing guests. You can also call the office one week before the event and sign up to bring a guest.

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