



LRI NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1

January 1995

Published by the Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA. 22030 (703) 503-3384

Dates to Remember

JANUARY

- Mon., Jan. 9, Winter term registration deadline
- Wed., Jan. 11, 1:30, Book Club
- Fri., Jan. 13, 10:00, Coordinating Com.
- Fri., Jan. 20, 10:30, Board of Directors
- Mon., Jan. 23, Winter term begins

FEBRUARY

- Fri., Feb. 10, 10:00, Coordinating Com.
- Wed. Feb. 15, 1:30 Book Club
- Fri., Feb. 17, 10:30, Board of Directors
- Fri., Feb. 17, Winter term ends

MARCH

- Fri., Mar. 3, 2 - 4, OPEN HOUSE
- Mon., Mar. 6, Spring term registration deadline
- Wed., Mar. 8, 1:30, Book Club
- Fri., Mar. 10, 10:00, Coordinating Com.
- Fri., Mar. 17, 10:30, Board of Directors
- Mon., Mar. 20, Spring term begins
(See last page for preview of courses.)

Watch for announcements about these and other Special Events in the Spring catalog:

- Fri., Mar. 24, "Inside the White House"
- Wed., Mar. 29, "Intelligence Agencies in the '90s"
- Fri., Apr. 7, Tour of NSA Museum
- Wed., Apr. 12, Elderhostel Report
- Wed., Apr. 19, Tea and Tour of Bailiwick Inn
- Fri., Apr. 29, Tour of State Dept. Diplomatic Reception Rooms

Letter From the President

This is the time of year when the letter from the President usually provides an overview of the past year and a glimpse of what lies ahead. This year, however, it is addressed to a very special lady, Kathryn Brooks.

Dear Kathryn:

We know that without your hard work and tenacity we would not be enjoying today the wonderful program LRI offers.

Over the years you have devoted untold time and energy organizing, teaching, motivating and supporting us. You have truly been our "Rock of Gibraltar." We could generate quite a list of things you have *done*, but of far greater value is who you *are*.

Whatever the task at hand, you bring a clear-headed, fair, sensible, practical and honest perspective. You are outspoken, direct and "tell it like it is," but always tempered with good humor and generosity of spirit.

Because you feel you can no longer devote consistent time and effort to the work of LRI, we accept your resignation from the Board with deep regret, but gladly accept your offer of consultation and support.

As you requested, I have appointed someone who is dedicated to carrying on the spirit of LRI--a spirit that is a reflection of our "founding mother."

I know I speak for all LRI members when I say, "Many thanks, Kathryn, for all you have done to enrich our lives."

Laura Cambern, President

New Chair for the Program Committee

One of the most crucial functions in LRI is the Program Committee, which is responsible for developing the courses and special events for each semester. Janice Dewire, the chairperson of this committee for the past year, has done an excellent job of developing outstanding selections. Starting in April, Ray Beery will take over the chairmanship. This is one committee that needs input from everyone. If you have suggestions for course topics or teachers or for special events, don't hesitate to get them to Ray.

LRI Works With GMU

Allen Montecino and Ray Beery recently met with GMU's director of computing, Jerry Jenkins, and were pleased to hear that the University will continue its full support of LRI's computer users. Members who want to use E-mail and other Internet services may apply for them. Talk to Allen or Ray about this. Those who already have accounts are being upgraded to the new host computers. To increase LRI's efforts to help the University, Allen and Ray volunteered to assist in preparing and teaching a course on "Introduction to Windows" for faculty and staff several times a year. Any LRI members who want to help should call Carol Ferrara at the office.

A Gift From TRW

TRW Systems Integration Group has donated \$1,500 to LRI. This is the second year the company has made a contribution to our organization. Executive Vice President and General Manager John P. Stenbit says that TRW is interested in supporting programs for older adults. This kind of corporate recognition and support is important to the future of LRI and is much appreciated.

Speaking of Money

Ed Swoboda, LRI Treasurer, reminds all members that unauthorized expenditures should not be made by any member without first being cleared with Carol Ferrara, our Administrator.

LRI on TV and Radio

More people are learning about LRI from the media. In September Laura Cambern and Allen Montecino appeared on TV on "The Mason Report" with two GMU professors, discussing what LRI is and how it

and the university can work more closely together. Then in November Laura was on "The Retirement Doctor" on radio station WPGC, a weekly program on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. that addresses topics of interest to retirees. The moderator, Sue Jennings, questioned Laura about LRI and its courses and other activities.

Coffees and Potlucks

The first New-Member Coffee was held on November 11. Thanks to good organizing by Martha Poling and her committee, a large group of new members participated and were greeted by members of the Board of Directors. All the new members seemed enthusiastic about LRI.

Potlucks have proved popular with LRI members. The one on October 14 drew about 60 members and some excellent food. An old Charlie Chaplin silent film that played in the background didn't get much attention because everyone was too busy chatting. The potluck on December 9 was equally successful. Thanks to Eda Harris and her committee and to Flora Hedblom, chairman of the Membership Services Committee, for arranging these enjoyable occasions.

The food at the potlucks has been so outstanding that plans are underway to create an LRI cookbook. If you have favorite recipes you want to contribute, call Helen Cefaratti (448-6745), who has volunteered to coordinate the project.

New Board Member

Beverly George has been appointed to the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired portion of Kathryn Brooks' term. Beverly is also chairperson of the Outreach Committee, which has many responsibilities, including finding ways to attract new members to LRI.

All the Way From Silver Spring

Talk about dedication to LRI! During the fall semester Alice Pennington, who lives in Silver Spring, took Mary Shea's course on writing an autobiography. This meant spending the night before each class at the home of her friends Charles and Mary Watson, who had told her about the course and who offered to bring her to the class each Wednesday. Now 92, Alice has had unusually interesting experiences that included serving as Program Director for the Red Cross in the Pacific

during World War II and running a music school. She retired just a few months ago and is now busily getting her life story on paper. She says Mary Shea was a wonderful inspiration and guide in this new endeavor. In fact, Alice is so pleased with LRI that she is thinking of moving to Virginia so she can get to more classes. Incidentally, Alice will be one of the speakers during the winter course "Commemoration of World War II.

News From the Network

LRI is an affiliate of the Elderhostel Institute Network, which is composed of similar organizations around the country. Our liaison to the Network is Audrey Markham. She reports that the Network, in cooperation with the Elderhostel International Department, offers a selection of international study travel programs set aside exclusively for members of affiliated institutes. This can be an enjoyable way to travel with people from other parts of the U.S. Currently scheduled for 1995 are the following destinations:

Turkey, May 8 - June 1 (registration deadline: March 20)

Costa Rica, May 12 - 26 (deadline: March 24)

Costa Rica, June 7 - 21 (deadline: April 19)

Italy, June 11 - 24 (deadline: April 23)

There are preparatory study guides available for these trips. For information on the trips, call Audrey, 620-4216. She can also give you information on a conference of affiliated institutes scheduled for May 7 - 9 in Charleston, S.C.

Dinner for Great Decisions Leaders

John Frank represented LRI at the Foreign Policy Dinner of the World Affairs Council of Washington, D.C., on November 22 at the embassy of the People's Republic of China. The dinner honored the Great Decision leaders and coordinators. John will be moderator for the spring LRI Great Decisions class, which will focus on China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Get him to tell you about the 12 hors d'oeuvres and other items on the traditional Chinese menu. He had an opportunity to ask the ambassador several questions and learned that the trend toward more control at the provincial level is likely to extend only to law enforcement and tax collection, with a strong central government still in control. Many of the speakers provided good background material for the LRI Great Decisions course.

Don't Forget to Sign In

There's a class roster for each course. It's important that you check off your name each time you attend class so that we can develop good records for planning future courses. The class liaison person will either pass the roster around during the class or leave it on a table both before and after class. Either way, be sure you sign in.

Upcoming Books for Discussion

Wallace Stegner's *Crossing to Safety* provoked interesting opinions and questions during the December meeting of the Book Club, which meets on the second Wednesday each month. The selection chosen for January is *The Shipping News*, by E. Annie Proulx. In February the club will meet on February 15, rather than the 8th, and hear two Fairfax County librarians speak on Afro-American and Hispanic fiction and non-fiction. March will be mystery month, and right now the mystery selection is itself a mystery. In April the book will be Doris Kearns Godwin's *No Ordinary Time*, a biography of FDR and Eleanor. Everyone is welcome to join.

The Social Room

Members are enjoying the new social room, especially during these winter months when the coffee pot draws them in from the cold. Remember to use the clipboard to leave notes for Carol rather than going into the office for anything except important LRI business. As we all know, Carol is one busy woman whose work gets interrupted all too often. Let's help by leaving messages whenever possible, rather than turning her office into a social room! If you call the office, you may get the recorded message even during normal office hours. That's because the message machine activates when the office line is busy. You can either leave a message or try again in 10 or 15 minutes.

Thanks to Those Who Donated to LRI in 1994

Carl Clement	Effie Haupt	Albert Giles
Edmond A. Sullivan	Knox Singleton	Barbara Achilles
Michael Styles	Albert Giles	Joan Tullington
Thomas Clarke	Agnes Kelly	Eleanor Morrow
Vince Boylan	Gerhard Voekler	Laura Cambern
Marvin Alexander	Jacqueline Clark	Charles Lord
Elizabeth Palmer	Virginia Pernice	Beverly Chapell
Sue Nelson Wrenn	Katherine Hanley	Joseph Gartlan
Helene Layman	Lilyan Spero	Virginia Power
Texaco	TRW	Anonymous

A LOOK AT THE SPRING SEMESTER

The Program Committee has been hard at work for several months lining up courses and special events for the eight-week spring semester, which begins March 20. Here's a preview of some of the subjects you'll find in your catalog, scheduled to be mailed in late February.

Courses on Japan, Israel, Turkey, Italy, India, post-Soviet Eastern Europe
Beginning watercolor...intermediate drawing
Music in the Renaissance
Women mystery writers
Poetry of the Bible...and a continuation of the Poetry Workshop
Economic issues, with another group of outstanding speakers
The James: A river of history
State and local governments and how they work
Math without fear
Geology (with field trips)
French conversation
Our environment: Science and the laws
Great Decisions
Athens in the age of Pericles

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE
George Mason University
4210 Roberts Rd.
Fairfax, VA. 22030

(703) 503-3384

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA.
PERMIT NO. 6309

DATED MATERIAL

