



LRI NEWS

Volume 6, Number 1

January 1996

Published by the Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA. 22032-1028 (703) 503-3384

Dates to Remember

JANUARY

- Fri., Jan. 5, 10:30, Program Committee
- Wed., Jan. 10, 1:30 - 2:30, Book Club
- Fri., Jan. 12, 10:00, Office volunteer training
- Fri., Jan. 12, 10:00, Coordination Committee
- Fri., Jan. 19, 10:00, Board of Directors
- Mon., Jan. 22, Winter term begins
- Wed., Jan. 24, 2:00, Special Event: Hubble Telescope
- Fri., Jan. 26, 10:30, Special Event: Sackler Museum

FEBRUARY

- Fri., Feb. 2, 10:30, Program Committee
- Fri., Feb. 2, 2 - 3:30, Special Event: National Parks slide show
- Fri., Feb. 9, 10:00, Coordination Committee
- Sat., Feb. 10, 11:00, Special Event: Treasury Tour
- Wed., Feb. 14, 1:30 - 2:30, Book Club
- Fri., Feb. 16, 10:00, Board of Directors
- Fri., Feb. 16, Winter term ends

MARCH

- Fri., Mar. 1, 10:30, Program Committee
- Fri., Mar. 8, 10:00, Coordination Committee
- Wed., Mar. 13, 1:30 - 2:30, Book Club
- Fri., Mar. 15, 10:00, Board of Directors
- Mon., Mar. 25, Spring term begins

Catalogs for the spring term will be mailed in late February.

From Our President

Your response to the questionnaire about what course subjects interest you and the ways you want to volunteer in LRI has been overwhelming. As a result, a number of previously underserved volunteer areas are now staffed and we have much-needed depth in others. The outpouring of support has been so generous that we may not, in fact, make immediate use of all of you, but fear not, your time will come!

Speaking of time, I've been reflecting on how much of it our members donate to a wide variety of endeavors beyond LRI. It is easy to understand the desire to assist in an activity like LRI in which there is a personal benefit. What is most impressive is the degree to which our members volunteer their energies to "give back" to the community.

A few examples of the ways LRI members are serving others include hospital volunteers...Meals on Wheels...Northern Virginia Ombudsman Program...tutoring in the schools and the jails...teaching English as a second language...serving on various Fairfax County boards and commissions...working with religious and ecumenical service groups...providing respite care for parents of children with mental retardation and for family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients...helping in libraries.

This list barely scratches the surface of the ways our members help others.

Virginia may be for lovers, but LRI is for givers!

Laura Cambern,
President

The Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University is an equal-opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national or ethnic origin. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Broadening Horizons Together

Why Registering Is Important

You may wonder why the catalog stresses that you should not attend classes or special events for which you have not been officially registered and that you should advise the office when you drop a course or event. You may notice extra space in a class and think it's okay to sit in, but that can create an unfair situation, for several reasons.

First, our classrooms at Tallwood cannot comfortably or safely hold more than a fixed number of students. Some courses and events are restricted in size because of content or teacher preference.

Members are registered for classes and special events up to these limits in the order of preference they list on their Registration Form. First and usually second choices are almost always accepted.

We have learned from experience that there is a fall-off from registration to actual attendance in all classes and special events. The limits set for TA-1 and TA-2 (60 and 25, respectively) take the average fall-off into account. And, of course, students sometimes don't attend all sessions of a class for a variety of reasons. That's why you may see available seating even for a course that was oversubscribed.

If you sit in on a course or event for which you are not officially registered, you are potentially denying a place to someone who had asked to be registered for it but was turned down.

We are experimenting with a form of waiting list. Those denied admission to an oversubscribed course will be told on their Confirmation Form that after the term begins they can ask the office to wait-list them. Then if someone drops that course or special event, someone on the waiting list will be registered to fill the vacant space, based on the date of the original Registration Form.

If you have questions about these procedures, please phone or ask at the office.

by Carol Ferrara, Administrator

New BB in the Social Room

A second bulletin board has been installed in the Social Room for posting news about what members are doing in and outside LRI, snapshots of LRI activities, and other "nonofficial" items involving

LRI. The original BB in the Social Room will be devoted solely to "official" notices about LRI and GMU. If you have items you think should be posted, contact Carol Ferrara or Joan Tullington, chair of the Membership Services Committee, who is responsible for what gets posted.

Use the bulletin board in the hallway next to TA-1 for notices that do not involve LRI or GMU, but no "For Sale" or "Wanted" items, please. Include the date you post the notice, so we can clear off old notices periodically.

Let's Keep in Touch

If you know of someone who is sick or otherwise unable to attend classes, get the word to Helen Beery, who will send a card on behalf of all of us.

Do You Have an E-Mail Address?

If you want to have your e-mail address included in the next LRI Directory, let the office know. You can e-mail your address to Carol using her e-mail address (cferrara@osf1.gmu.edu).

Home In on LRI's Home Page

LRI has made a good start on creating a home page on the world wide web, thanks to Allen Montecino. We're probably the first LRI in the country to accomplish this. The home page will have a welcome message from our president, along with her picture, and tell what courses are offered and what special events are coming up, plus any other information we want to make available on the web. Eventually, LRI members will contribute their own home pages, which can be linked to the basic home page. Subjects could range from economics to history, poetry, computer literacy and who knows what else. Allen Montecino, Carol Ferrara and Marjorie White are responsible for the basic page.

If you have a web browser, check out the current status of the LRI home page using this URL:

<http://web.gmu.edu/departments/lri>

You can also ask for a demonstration on the office computer. Have questions or suggestions for content? Get in touch with Allen by phone (250-2618) or e-mail (amonteci@osf1.gmu.edu).

SNOW POLICY

When Fairfax County schools are closed because of snow, LRI is closed. When the schools are opening late, LRI classes will meet at their scheduled times.

Forget Snow, Think Spring

Even before the Winter term gets underway, the Program Committee is pinning down interesting courses on a wide variety of subjects. Here are some now in the works:

- Musical Nationalism
- Etruscan and Roman Art
- Economic Tourism
- Personal Finance
- Virginia Presidents
- Japan Today
- Intelligence and Espionage
- Modern Iran and Iraq
- Our Latin Neighbors
- French Literature and Civilization
- Afro-American Studies
- American Nationhood
- Great Decisions
- Public Policy Issues
- Weather

The popular Computer Workshop, Watercolor, Sketching and Readers Theater courses are also scheduled for continuation in the spring term.

Thank You, Liaisons

Jeal Gild rounded up an efficient group of members to serve as liaisons for the fall term. Those who serve in this important function in LRI make sure class members sign in each time and get the LRI Notices and special announcements, as well as helping the teacher when needed. Thanks to each of these liaisons who served during the fall term:

Lydia MacDonald, Shirley Hyland, Mary Davis, Knox Singleton, Dorothy Stellmach, Barb Perkins, Barbara Achilles, Helga Torda, Beverly George, John Sullivan, Betty Denton, Alma Eklund, Eleanor

White, Shirley Smith, Alice Monroe, Dorothea Fischbach, Jackie Bivins, Marion Burgett, Elizabeth Waller, Jane Lundy, Irene Dunleavy, Ruth Shields, Joanne Becker and Margy Newsham.

And Another Thank You for the Potluck Lunch
Our potluck lunch on December 8 was a big success, thanks to the outstanding food contributions and also to the organizational skills of Audrey Mowson and her team.

TRW Contributes to LRI

Again in 1995, TRW contributed \$1,000 to the Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University. This kind of corporate support of worthwhile community activities is most appreciated and is of great help in expanding our program.

Your Role in LRI

We are constantly reminded that LRI is a volunteer organization, dependent on its members for a variety of activities and operations. As a member, you have a voice in its management.

Every year just after the close of the spring term, the membership has a meeting at which it elects directors to serve on the 18-person Board of Directors, which is responsible for over-all operations and policy. The Board then elects officers: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The president names chairpersons of the five standing committees: Outreach (responsible for attracting new members, publicity, and community relations); Program (responsible for classes and special events); Finance and Budget (responsible for accounting, financial planning and budget); Membership Services (responsible for support of members, social events and class liaisons); Publications (responsible for this newsletter, the catalogs and other publications).

Day-to-day operations are under Administration, headed by Carol Ferrara, who is responsible for registration, office volunteers, clerical work, computers, supplies and equipment. A Coordination Committee, headed by the vice-

president and consisting of the chairs of each of the five standing committees and Administration, assures that all of these activities are adequately coordinated. You will find the names and phone numbers of directors and committee chairs on the inside cover of your catalog and in the Directory.

All regular and called meetings of the Board and the several committees are open for any member to attend. A schedule of such meetings is included regularly in this newsletter. In addition to personal contacts with anyone in the organization, these meetings are your opportunity to ask questions, make comments and suggestions, and submit proposals. If you have a specific item that you want to raise with the Board or any committee, call the chairperson involved in advance so that your topic can be put on the agenda.

The Learning in Retirement Institute is your organization. You are encouraged to participate.

by Michael Styles

LRI Honors Kathryn Brooks

The first lecture in an annual series to honor Kathryn Brooks, founder and first president of our LRI, was held on November 10. The speaker was Appellate Judge Rosemarie Annunziata, who chose as her topic, "Women and the Law, One Woman's Journey." She was introduced by Kenneth Plum,

Delegate to the Virginia Assembly and Director of Fairfax County Adult and Community Education. Delegate Plum was instrumental in the establishment of LRI in the fall of 1991, as was Carla Pitman, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, who introduced Kathryn at the luncheon.

Close to 100 members and friends attended, including our first liaison with George Mason University, Marjorie Haley, now Assistant Provost for Academic Programs, and our present liaison, Helen Ackerman, Vice President for University Relations. Other guests included Stanley Taylor, Associate Vice President for Operational Services, Monica Neighbors, GMU Director of Community Relations, and Joseph Haestie, former Rector of the University and member of LRI's original steering committee.

Kathryn, who is 89 years young, said she was thrilled with the lunch.

by Shirley Fox

EIN Conference Coming in March

The Elderhostel Institute Network will hold a Mid-Atlantic Conference from March 24 to 26, 1996, hosted by American University. These Network conferences provide a way for affiliated institutes like ours to exchange ideas. Several of our members will represent LRI at GMU by serving on panels and



Kathryn Brooks, Appellate Judge Rosemarie Annunziata and LRI President Laura Cambern at the luncheon honoring Kathryn for her role in founding the Learning in Retirement Institute at George Mason University.

giving presentations. Ray Beery will talk about our computer literacy program. Janice Dewire will be on a panel on curriculum development. Kent Long will be on one about strategies for getting new members.

Other topics scheduled include recruiting volunteers, publications, finances, training study leaders, course formats that work, curriculum materials and resources, and facing growth issues.

The registration fee for the conference will be about \$120 per person for three days, including one dinner and two luncheons. More information will be posted on the Social Room bulletin board as it becomes available. If you are interested in attending, check with Carol Ferrara.

Travel With the Network

The Elderhostel Institute Network has space available on three of its upcoming travel programs: London, May 14-29; Galapagos Islands, May 18-29; and France, May 20-June 21. Call Judy Muller at the Network for more information (603) 862-0725.

EIN's Johnny Appleseed Fund

Once a year the Elderhostel Institute Network sends out appeals to members of our LRI and other affiliated institutes, soliciting contributions to its Johnny Appleseed Fund. The money is used to help support the Network's activities in establishing more LRIs around the country, running workshops, sponsoring travel programs tied in with courses, and promoting other programs that keep the lifetime learning concept growing and improving.

Our Published Poets

LRI's Poetry Workshop is well represented in the 1996 edition of *The Poet's Domain*, an annual collection of work by selected poets from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. The volume includes poems by current Workshop members Barbara Achilles, Dagmar Lending and Dorothy Millner and former members Evelyn Wade and Jeannette Marr. *The Poet's Domain* and poems by Workshop members are displayed in the Social Room. Read a poem--it will make you feel better.

by Marvinia Munch

Outstanding Speakers

Newcomers to our LRI sometimes ask how we get so many wonderful teachers and speakers. Many teachers are LRI members, but the Program Committee has also had much success in bringing in outstanding people from the George Mason University faculty, from embassies, from the federal and state government, and from private organizations. Some examples from the fall and spring terms:

*Dr. Mark Katz, Associate Professor of Government and Politics at GMU

*Dr. Brack Brown, Associate Professor of Government and Politics at GMU

*Keith Bush, Senior Associate, Russian and Eurasian Studies, CSIS

*Dr. Peter Black, Chief Historian in the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations

*Gabor Horvath, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Hungary

*Dr. Gertrude Schroeder, Consultant to the CIA Office of Russian Affairs

*Neal Sher, Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

*Thalil Fouteh, Deputy Chief Representative of the PLO to the U.S.

*Paul Goble, Director of Research of the Jamestown Foundation

LRI greatly appreciates the time and effort such busy people give to our academic program.

by Murray Minster

LRI Needs Your Course Suggestions

The welcome mat is always out in the Program Committee for anyone who has a course subject or a teacher to suggest. Right now the committee is working on the spring and summer sessions and even thinking ahead to next fall, so send your ideas to the chairman, Ray Beery, or any committee member.

The next issue of *LRI News* will be mailed early in April. Members are encouraged to submit items. Send them to Marjorie White by March 20.

Word of Mouth Works Best

When asked how they heard about LRI, by far the majority of new members say a friend told them about it. From the beginning, word of mouth has been our best way of bringing in new members, so you can play a role in increasing LRI's membership. We have an ongoing publicity program. Judith Lieberman has been doing a great job of getting press releases to the various media. Members of the Outreach Committee, under Kent Long, speak at meetings and provide LRI materials at fairs and other events. If you have ideas for other ways to spread the word, get in touch with Kent or Judith.

Special Events Reminders

A large number of members are registered for the "What's New With the Hubble?" on January 24 at the Virginian Retirement Community Assembly Room. Because parking is somewhat restricted, you are urged to arrange car pooling if possible.

Don't forget to bring a photo ID if you are registered for the tour of the Treasury Department on February 10.

George Dewire is Chairman of the Special Events subcommittee, so if you have questions about any of the arrangements for the tours coming up in January and February, call him for information (532-8312).

LRI at GMU will soon be 5 years old. Plans are underway to celebrate in the spring.

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE
George Mason University
4210 Roberts Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

(703) 503-3384

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

DATED MATERIAL

