

# TALLWOOD TIMES



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APRIL 1997

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

- Wed., Apr. 2, 1:30, Travel Club
- Wed., Apr. 2, 1:30, History Club
- Fri., Apr. 4, 9:00, Special Event: National Gallery Tour
- Fri., Apr. 4, 10:00, Program Com.
- Wed., Apr. 9, 1:30, Book Club
- Wed., Apr. 9, 2:00, Special Event: Migration
- Fri., Apr. 11, 11:00, Coordination Com.
- Fri., Apr. 18, 9:00, Special Event: Library of Congress Tour
- Fri., Apr. 18, 10:00, Board of Directors
- Wed., Apr. 23, 2:00, Special Event: Antarctica
- Fri., Apr. 25, 2:00, Special Event: Dr. James Buchanan
- Wed., Apr. 30, 2:00, Special Event: Bird Watching in New Guinea

### MAY

- Fri., May 2, 10:00, Program Com.
- Fri., May 2, 2:00, Special Event: Conducting Music
- Wed., May 7, 1:30, Travel Club
- Wed., May 7, 1:30, History Club
- Fri., May 9, 11:00, Coordination Com.
- Fri., May 9, 2:00, Special Event: Earth-Sheltered Architecture
- Wed., May 14, 1:30, Book Club
- Fri., May 16, 10:00, Board of Directors
- May 16, Spring Term Ends
- Mon., May 19, SUMMER REGISTRATION
- Tues., May 20, 3:00, Tea for Instructors
- Thurs., May 22, 11:00, **Annual Meeting**

### JUNE (Summer Term: June 2 - 27)

- Fri., June 6, 10:00, Program Com.
- Fri., June 13, 11:00, Coordination Com.
- Fri., June 20, 10:00, Board of Directors

Note: The Summer Term catalog will be mailed during the first week in May.

## From Our President

It's amazing how our organization has grown, not only in numbers but in program opportunities. Deciding what courses to take gets tougher each term, and everyone of those interesting special events is tempting. I really love being a member.

Much as I and other Board members would like to have more people enjoy the benefits of being a part of LRI, we have had to face some hard facts about classroom space, parking facilities, administrative support and a host of other things that go with growth, including the pressures of developing ever more courses and events. For the last four months the Board has focused on these problems and has decided that for the near future we must limit membership to 400 people.

On the next page you will find more explanation about this decision and the procedures we've adopted to make it as fair as possible. We'll keep exploring ways to find more space. Meanwhile, we've signed a five-year lease with the owners of the pool parking lot for 20 weeks of parking use a year. The lease can be negated by either side with a year's written notice. If you have questions about any aspect of LRI's activities, please let us know. Members can also come to regular Board meetings, which are usually held on the third Friday of the month, starting at 10:00.

I want to urge members to come to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 22, at 11:00. We'll be electing six members to fill expiring terms on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will soon be sending out the list of nominees and information on voting procedures, including proxies for those who can't make it to the meeting.

And as always I want to thank all of you for your suggestions for courses and special events and for your continuing support and enthusiasm. Here comes spring!!!

Janice Dewire  
President

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### New Administrative Assistant

The next time you stop in the office, give a warm welcome to Matt Bond, LRI's new office assistant. Matt is a sophomore at GMU, and he will be helping with LRI databases, correspondence, room setup and phone answering. Rumor has it he makes a great cup of coffee, too. Matt is on the Track and Field Team at George Mason and last year as a freshman was on the NCAA National Championship Team. Matt's events are the 200 and 400 meter sprints (just like Michael Johnson!). An English major, Matt hopes to write for a newspaper or magazine when he completes his college degree. He is from Burke, Va., and currently lives on campus.

### Preview of Summer

The 1997 summer session will run from June 2 to 27. The proposed schedule will include continuation of the Poetry Workshop, the Book Club, the Investment Forum and Surfing the Net. In addition, two 2-day workshops introducing new computer owners to the Internet with a lab session in the GMU computer lab will be offered. There will be a lecture on tropical rain forests and one on the United Nations. Gary Powers, Jr., will also lecture. A favorite old movie, *Marie Antoinette*, with Norma Shearer and Tyrone Power, will be shown at the Johnson Center Movie Hall. Trips are planned to the "Red, Hot and Blue" exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery, to the African Art Museum and an Indian art exhibit at the Castle, and to Gunston Hall. The summer catalog will be mailed the first week in May, with registration deadline May 19.

### Where Your Money Goes

The following breakdown of how your \$200 membership fee is spent is based on LRI's 1997 budget. (For more details, see the bulletin board in the social room.)

ADMINISTRATION	\$ 99.41
BUILDING, GROUNDS, PARKING	49.54
CURRICULUM AIDS	2.92
EQUIPMENT	15.60
EQUIPMENT SUPPORT	1.70
POSTAGE	6.82
PRINTING	21.10
SOCIAL/ENTERTAINMENT	<u>6.28</u>
TOTAL	\$203.37

The difference between your \$200 fee and LRI's projected expenditure of \$203.37 for each member is made up by interest on our reserves and donations to LRI.

### LRI Board Decides to Limit Growth

Since it opened six years ago, our LRI has grown to 382 members, an average rate of growth of 25% per year. This fall, membership will almost certainly exceed 400. We are close to offering the maximum number of classes and special events that can be accommodated at Tallwood. All our facilities--parking, restrooms, social and office space--are under increasing strain.

The Board of Directors has examined possible options for dealing with requirements and costs that a continually expanding membership entails. Moving some activities to other locations was considered, but there are significant costs in holding major activities elsewhere.

The Board has decided that starting this fall, LRI will not accept new membership applications for the 1997/98 term that will result in a total membership in excess of the total membership during spring or summer 1997 or 400, whichever is greater. Thereafter, LRI will seek to find means to increase membership to at least 425 for 1998/99 and 450 for 1999/2000.

The Board has adopted the following procedures to assure that all existing and prospective members are treated fairly.

- All existing members who continue to renew their membership when it is due to expire will not be denied membership because of the then effective membership limit.
- To be fair to members who allowed their membership to lapse this spring or summer without knowing that a membership limit would be imposed, persons who were members through winter 1997 will be readmitted this fall even if this results in a membership level over the limit. This provision will apply only to fall 1997.
- New applicants in excess of the limit will have their membership dues returned and they will be asked whether they wish to be considered for a future term. If so, they may resubmit a membership application, without accompanying annual fee, during the registration period for that term. If there are openings, they will be contacted and told that their applications will be accepted upon receipt of the annual fee. If waiting list applicants decline or fail to respond, their names will be removed from the waiting list.



### **Other Board Action**

The Board of Directors is studying ways that LRI can contribute to George Mason University, our sponsoring university. If you have ideas to suggest, pass them along to Janice Dewire.

### **Program Committee Report**

Co-chairs Helen Lapitsky and Janet Meisenhelder have done a wonderful job over the last year in developing a strong and imaginative committee. They both will be leaving the committee in June, along with Helene Layman, Murray Minster, Mary Shea and Lilyan Spero. All have contributed their talents, their knowledge of the Washington area resources, and their time and energy to bring truly fine courses to the LRI program.

Several new faces have joined the committee. Names of all members of the committee will appear in the July *Talwood Times*.

### **Lilyan Spero Honored in the County**

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and the Washington Post named Lilyan Spero as the 1996 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year at the 47th Annual Awards Banquet on March 21. The awards ceremony recognized her many years of community service. Members of LRI know well how much she has given to our organization, both in its formative period, then as President, and more recently on the Board of Directors and the Program Committee. Congratulations, Lilyan!

### **LRI's Home Page**

Have you looked at LRI's home page lately? The address is <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/lri>. In addition to showing our courses and special events for the current term, it has links to the home pages of Ray Beery, Gary Voekler and Rod Zumbro, all packed with interesting material. If you have created a home page and want it linked to LRI's, let Allen Montecino know (e-mail: [amonteci@gmu.edu](mailto:amonteci@gmu.edu)).

### **Attention, Gardeners!**

If you are separating perennials and bulbs or have other plants you want to donate to LRI's grounds, please call Helene Layman (591-3181).

### **Parking Pointers for Everyone**

Unless you have a handicap tag or card, please do not park in LRI's handicap spaces. We need to keep

them free for those who really need them. Also, do not park in the pool parking lot after 12 noon during June, July and August. (LRI classes will be scheduled from 10:00 to 11:30, so it is okay to park in the pool lot during that time frame.)

### **Budapest Bound (and Prague, Too)**

There's still time to sign up for the GMU-sponsored trip June 30 to July 14 to Budapest and Prague. Call Pamela Gold at the Center for Global Education, 993-2154 before April 15.

### **No Sit-ins, Please**

Sometimes it's tempting to sit in on a class for which you haven't registered, but bear in mind that the class may have a waiting list because it was over-subscribed or the instructor limited the number to be admitted. This spring term nine courses and four special events were oversubscribed.

Once registration is over each term, you can check with the office to see whether there is room in a class for which you did not originally request registration. Don't just sign your name at the bottom of the class roster and think that's enough. During the winter term, there were a few times when "sitting in" created problems. Helen Lapitsky, co-chair of the Program Committee, passes along these "words of wisdom": "Minimize friction and create harmony. You can get friction for nothing but harmony costs courtesy and self-control."

### **Learn What Other LRIs Are Doing**

An on-line forum of organizations like ours at other universities around the country is proving to be a good way to exchange ideas and experiences. Recently, the discussions have focused on such subjects as membership fees, scholarships, curriculum ideas, how trips are handled and peer-led discussions.

Carol Ferrara is printing out some of the more interesting responses and putting them in a notebook in the social room for members to read. If you have a subject that you think should be posted on the forum to get input from other groups, talk to Carol. If you are using e-mail and want to be on the forum list, send your request to

[jemuller@christa.unh.edu](mailto:jemuller@christa.unh.edu).

You may get more mail than you want, but a lot of it is interesting. Some even comes from similar organizations in Europe and Australia.



# Annual Meeting

## May 22 at 11:00 a.m.

### at Tallwood

This is an important occasion for all LRI members. We'll elect six members to the Board of Directors and talk about the future of the organization. And, yes, there will be refreshments. If you can't be there, be sure to send in your proxy by the deadline given in the instructions, which you will be receiving shortly.

**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE**  
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