

TALLWOOD TIMES



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JANUARY 1998

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

Wed., Jan. 7, 1:30, History Club
Fri., Jan. 9, 10:00, Program Committee
Fri., Jan. 9, Coordinating Committee
(members will be notified of time)
Wed., Jan. 14, 1:30, Book Club
Fri., Jan. 16, Board of Directors
Mon., Jan. 19, WINTER TERM STARTS
Wed., Jan. 21, 2:00, Digital Revolution *
Fri., Jan. 23, 2:00, Long-Term Care *
Mon., Jan. 26, evening, Naval Observatory *
Fri., Jan. 30, 9:00, Bldg. Museum/Archives *

FEBRUARY

Wed., Feb. 4, 2:00, Indonesia *
Wed., Feb. 4, 1:30, History Club
Fri., Feb. 6, 2:00, Art Restoration *
Fri., Feb. 6, 10:00, Program Committee
Mon., Feb. 9, evening, Naval Observatory *
Wed., Feb. 11, 2:00, Victorian Japan *
Fri., Feb. 13, 2:00, Trip Tales *
Fri., Feb. 13, 10:00, Coordinating Committee
Fri., Feb. 13, WINTER TERM ENDS
Fri., Feb. 20, 10:00, Board of Directors

* Special Event. Check your course catalog for additional information.

REMINDER: LRI will be closed when Fairfax County schools are closed for the day because of weather. LRI will be open on its regular schedule when schools open late. Note that Fairfax County schools are closed on January 19, 26, 27 and February 26. On those days, a message will be on the LRI office answering machine (503-3384) if LRI is closed.

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From Our President

Things have been buzzing during these weeks between the fall term and the winter term that begins on January 19.

The folks on the Program Committee and its Special Events Subcommittee never take time off. Right now, they are busy putting together the spring offerings and even talking about the summer and fall.

Laura Cambern is heading up an ad hoc committee that will plan some focus groups to be held at various times during the year. Small groups of members will be invited to meet with a leader to explore their ideas about LRI. Now that we have grown to 400 members, it's hard to get to know everyone and what they can contribute to the institute. LRI is a volunteer-run organization, and I urge each of you to find opportunities in which you can participate.

The Board of Directors continues to explore ways that we can accommodate those currently on the waiting list for membership and is also taking an in-depth and long-range look at the entire structure of LRI.

With the help of Robin Zeigler, our new deputy administrator, we are improving the way finances are handled. This is freeing Carol Ferrara to spend more time working with the Program Committee and in member services. These two women do an amazing job of coping with the many, many administrative details that are inevitable in a growing organization. (If you've stopped in the office between classes, you know it can get pretty hectic there. Let's help Carol and Robin by leaving them messages, either in their files or on the answering machine, rather than interrupting them.)

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find a report on the open house held for LRI at GMU's New Century College. We were all excited by what is going on there and the ways LRI can be involved. The box on the next page tells you more about that.

I look forward to seeing you in classes and at special events during the winter term.

Janice Dewire

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT GMU

George Mason University would like to have LRI members volunteer to help on three projects. This is a good opportunity for us to show our support and appreciation for all the University does for LRI.

- Help interview prospective freshmen. The University believes that admission should be based on more than test scores and grade point averages. From interviews you conduct, the admission counselors will gain insight into prospective students' commitment to learning, personal and academic maturity, creativity and communication skills. Student interviews will be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from January 10 to April 25. As a volunteers you will be asked to devote at least three hours (more if you wish) on any Saturday of your choice, though the University would like volunteers to help one Saturday each in January, February and March. The University will provide training information and lunch. Call Mark Sitek, Associate Director of Admissions, to receive more information. His number is 993-2424.
- The GMU English Language Institute needs volunteers to help international students improve their English language competency. By talking with a group of four to six students, you will be helping them not only improve their English but also learn about life and customs in our country. The students are from Asia, Turkey, the Middle East and South America and are from 18 to 25 years old. They have completed the equivalent of high school and are eager to learn enough English to attend GMU or another U.S. university. Volunteers are asked to be available one hour per week for up to eight or ten weeks from February through April. All sessions with the students as well as training for LRI volunteers will be at the English Language Institute on campus. If you are interested in helping these students, call Kathy Trump, Director of the English Language Institute, to find out when training will be held. Her number is 993-3660.
- GMU is also looking for LRI volunteers to help tutor students on their writing assignments. To get more information on this program, call the Director of The Writing Center, Dr. Terri Zawacki, 993-1187.

of New Century College, told the group about the College's goal of providing an integrative studies program that offers a small college education within the context of a large state university by having small groups of students interact closely with faculty, engage in problem solving, and perform community services.

A tour of the Johnson Center led by Jennifer Ross, Program Manager at the Center, included the library and special exhibits set up for the LRI group. A panel of students discussed their academic focus, and Lilyan Spero presented a plaque to Jennifer Vernier, the recipient of the Abe Spero scholarship, which many LRI members contributed to.

Magda Boylan receives award

At an awards ceremony in November, Magda Boylan received the Northern Virginia Volunteer Award of Excellence from the Family Friends of Northern Virginia, an organization that places volunteers with families who have a child with a disability. Magda has been a faithful volunteer for Family Friends for many years. If you'd like to know more about this worthwhile activity, talk to Magda or call 324-5607.

Are you an LRI e-mail user?

George Mason University has installed new telephone lines and improved modems. The new phone number to connect to the new modems is (703) 426-2468.

The new modems provide computer access at speeds up to 33.6 Kbps. That is more than twice the speed of the old modems, and GMU plans a further upgrade to 56.6 Kbps soon.

This high-speed service for WWW and other computer communication is designed to work with a Point to Point (PPP) connection. If you have not converted your old TCPman connection to

New Century College hosts LRI

A large group of LRI members responded to the invitation from GMU's New Century College to tour the John-

son Center and learn more about its facilities and about the New Century College.

Dr. Karen Oates, Associate Dean

the new PPP-type connection, you will not be able to take advantage of this new service. The University plans to phase out the old phone number (426-3536) and the old modem service as of February 2.

You won't have to buy any new software to reconfigure your computer, but you will have to establish a brand-new connection to GMU.

Instructions on how to install the new service on your computer can be obtained from printed handouts available at the UCIS Support Center in Thompson Hall on campus. You can also get instructions by directing your web browser to <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/ucis/support/docs.html>.

Have you seen LRI's home page?

No, it's not missing, but it is looking a bit different. The schedule of classes now uses the same format as the schedule in the catalog, giving days and times of classes in a table for easy searching. You can find the LRI home page at:

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

Upcoming Book Club selections

All LRI members are welcome to come to the Book Club, which meets on the second Wednesday each month from 1:30 to 2:30.

The selection for January 14 is *The Color of Water*, by James McBride. For February 11, the book discussed will be *Angela's Ashes*, by Frank McCourt. *Stones From the River*, by Ursula Hegi, is scheduled for March, and *Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follett, is on the list for April.

The History Club is growing

If you enjoy the history courses at LRI, you will also enjoy the discus-

Be sure to see the back page of this issue for information about a course that has just been added to the winter term.

ions in the History Club on the first Wednesday each month from 1:30 to 3:00. All are welcome, and you don't have to register.

On February 4, Dick Shaw will talk about *Bombshell: The Secret Story of America's Unknown Atomic Spy Conspiracy*, by Joseph Albright and Marcia Kunstel.

On March 4, the discussion will focus on the Great Depression and the fiction and nonfiction covering that period, plus our own memories.

LRI's pot-luck luncheon

You missed great food and wonderful singing if you weren't at the pot-luck luncheon on December 12. As usual at LRI's pot-lucks, the food was not only delicious but abundant. Facilities at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church were spacious and attractive. The LRI chorus presented a

program of seasonal music, under Helene Layman's direction and with Dolores Ecklund at the piano. Many thanks go to Beverly George and those on her Membership Services Committee for the splendid job they did in making this occasion such a success.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you decide to drop a course, please fill out a Change of Schedule Request form and turn it in at the office. If you want to add a course, check the list in the social room to see whether it still has space, then fill out the Change of Schedule Request form and get it approved by the office. Please do not attend a course or special event unless the office has approved your registration. Forms are available in the social room.

What's on Your Mind?

Share your thoughts about LRI...the courses or special events you've enjoyed, others you'd like to see offered, what you like most about LRI, your suggestions for improvements, etc. Leave items for this feature at the office, marked Tallwood Times.

After several years of retirement, I registered in LRI a couple of years ago and found myself in a classroom with Allen Montecino teaching his course on Virginia Presidents. I was surprised to realize how much I had been missing in not taking any courses since studies at the University and the Foreign Service Institute. I became very enthused about American history in general and Thomas Jefferson in particular. And I was inspired to contact old friends, families my late wife and I had known in Paris in the seventies, to arrange a long luncheon with them on the Left Bank. There we discussed many things but particularly the wonderful way that Americans and French cooperated at the time of the birth of our nation. Let there be more offerings on American history!

Roman Lotsberg

New Course Added to Winter Term

All LRI members were recently sent a flyer about a course that has just been added to the winter term: *The Evolution of Civil Aviation Safety*. The course, number 804, will emphasize airworthiness and operations and will feature four guest speakers with extensive experience in the field.

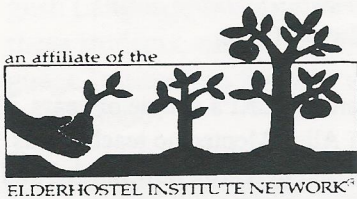
- ◆ Stanley J. Green, whose topic is "The Origin and Current Status of the FAA"
- ◆ M. Craig Beard, who will talk about "The FAA Today"
- ◆ Rudy Kapustin, who will discuss "The Role of the National Transportation Safety Board"
- ◆ William Schultz, who will present the industry's perspective in "How Industry Relates"

The course will meet on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1:00. You may register by including it on your catalog Registration Form or by using the form at the bottom of the flyer. In either case, try to get your request to the office by January 5.

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George Mason University
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

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LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032-1028
(703) 503-3384

January 5, 1997

Dear LRI Member,

The Program Committee is busy planning for our spring programs and the committee members are very interested in your ideas and recommendations concerning a specific segment of the program..**how we can best meet our member needs in the area of computer instruction.**

As you may know, in the past we have attempted to provide our members with either classes or lab sessions on various topics related to computers. From the outset, it was not our objective to compete with the myriad of classes available through offerings at adult education classes, Northern Virginia Community College classes, etc.. Rather, it was our objective to provide basic introductory type classes in order for our members to become "Computer Literate". We have only a limited number of computers available and we have also been limited by the number of qualified instructors to conduct the classes. Neither of these limitations has changed to any degree over the past several years.

Given these limitations, we are in the process of assessing where we are and what we should do in the future to best serve member desires. Hence, the reason for this special communication to each of you. We have prepared the attached questionnaire for your review, completion, **and return.** Even if you have never taken a computer or lab class at LRI, we need your input in this special member survey. So please take a few minutes (probably less than five) to complete the questionnaire and slip it in the mail prior to January 31st or drop it off at the office. Your input is vital to the committee's plans for future instruction. **Thanks in advance for your prompt response to this request.**

George Heatley
Co-Chairman, Program Committee

LRI COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME (please print) _____

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS

1. I have been a member of LRI for
 - a. Less than one year
 - b. One year to three years
 - c. More than three years

2. Have you previously taken a computer class or a computer lab at LRI?
 - a. Yes, computer class only
 - b. Yes, lab class only
 - c. Yes, both a computer and a lab class
 - d. Have never taken a computer class or a lab

3. If you answered yes to question #2, were you satisfied with the course content and instruction?
 - a. Yes, course content and instruction satisfactory
 - b. No, not satisfied. If you were dissatisfied, please give reason below

4. If you answered yes to question #2, list the title and year/term (e.g. 96/fall term) that you took the class(es). Use space below

5. If you answered no to question #2, are you interested in taking computer related courses in the future?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Note: If you answered no to question #5, you need not answer any of the follow-on questions. Merely sign and date the questionnaire and return it to LRI by mail or drop it off at the office....and thank you.

If you answered yes to question #5, please continue with the questionnaire.

One of our limiting factors in offering computer related classes is the availability of qualified instructors.....we need more instructors!

6. Do you consider yourself qualified enough to teach or assist in teaching a class or a lab class?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. Do you currently have a computer at home?

- a. Yes. It is a Mac
- b. Yes It is a PC
- c. No but I intend to buy one in the future
- d. No but I have access to a computer. It is a _____.

8. Do you currently have an E-Mail address?

- a. No
- b. Yes and my address is _____

Assuming LRI will have sufficient numbers of instructors and equipment available, please complete the information below using one of the codes listed.

- Codes:**
- HI - High Interest**
 - MI - Moderate Interest**
 - LI - Low Interest**
 - NI - No Interest**

9. Classes offering Basic Introductory Information about the PC and what is involved in purchasing and installing a computer. _____(code)

10. A class of all LRI members at one of the Adult Education Classes. This would permit LRI members to take the class together, but it would be at the regular Adult Education Class fee of approximately \$90. (We are not sure such a class could be arranged, but if there is interest, we could pursue such a session) _____(code)

11. Computer Lab Sessions where students will be instructed in Basic Information related to gaining proficiency in.....

- a. Word Processing _____(code)
- b. E-Mail _____(code)
- c. Internet/Web _____(code)
- d. CD-ROMs _____(code)

12. Establishment of Computer Club or Computer Forum which would meet where LRI's computer equipment is installed. This Club/Forum would provide members with the opportunity to meet and discuss computers and to share in resolving common problems they might be having. It is envisioned that the Club/Forum would foster a type of mutual

mentoring among participants. _____(code)

13. Scheduling arrangements for such Club/Forum sessions could vary. For example, they could be scheduled to meet during the same timeframes (days and hours) that the other LRI Clubs meet. Under another scenario, they could be scheduled to meet in what would be considered an "off LRI timeframe"(i.e. perhaps in the evenings or on weekends or possibly during periods between regular terms). If consideration is given to some of these alternative schedules, would you rather the sessions be scheduled....

- a. During only the same timeframes as the other regular clubs.
- b. During various timeframes, in order to gain maximum participation and to get maximum use out of available LRI computer equipment assets.
- c. You are indifferent as to which scheduling arrangement is selected.

14. Because of the need to buy software and other related computer configuration items, consideration is also being given to asking members who take computer type classes to pay an extra fee per class. This fee would be in addition to your regular LRI membership fee. Other LRI-type institutions use such an arrangement to defray some of the additional costs associated with providing computer instruction. The additional fee would probably be in the \$10-\$15 range....per class. Would you be supportive of LRI adopting such a policy?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Indifferent to the idea

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments and/or recommendations that you might have relative to our computer instruction inquiry.

Please sign _____

Date _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST