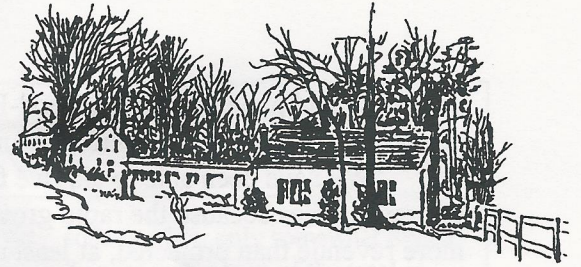


TALLWOOD TIMES



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JANUARY 1999

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

Mon., Jan. 4, Registration deadline for
Winter term
Wed., Jan. 6, 2:00, Special Events
Subcommittee
Wed., Jan. 6, 1:30, History Club
Fri., Jan. 8, 10:00, Program Committee
Wed., Jan. 13, 1:30, Book Club
Thurs., Jan. 14, 3:00, Opening reception
for Lake Anne site
Fri., Jan. 22, 10:00, Board of Directors
Mon., Jan. 18, Winter term begins
Special Events: Jan. 20, 22, 27, 29 *

FEBRUARY

Wed., Feb. 3, 1:30, History Club
Wed., Feb. 3, 2:00, Special Events
Subcommittee
Wed., Feb. 10, 1:30, Book Club
Fri., Feb. 12, Winter term ends
Fri., Feb. 12, Spring catalog mailed
Fri., Feb. 19, 10:00, Board of Directors
Special Events: Feb. 5, 12 *

MARCH

Wed. Mar. 3, 1:30, History Club
Wed., Mar. 3, 2:00, Special Events
Subcommittee
Fri., Mar. 5, 10:00, Program Committee
Mon., Mar. 8, Registration deadline for
Spring term
Wed., Mar. 10, 1:30, Book Club
Mon., Mar. 22, Spring term begins

** Your confirmation letter tells which Special Events you are registered for. Check your Winter catalog for more information.*

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

A Word From Your President

My last letter noted that the Board of Directors was reviewing how LRI should respond to increasing growth and complexity, particularly in program development and administration. At its December meeting several critical decisions were taken. The first and most important was to promote Carol Ferrara to the new position of Program Coordinator and chair of the Program Committee. By placing a dedicated, experienced and respected staff member in charge of this all-important function, we will assure not only continuity but also the time and effort necessary to keep our program one of the best in the country. Carol's office will be in the main Tallwood building. Robin Zeigler will be promoted to Administrator, and we will hire a new assistant capable of assuming new office functions. These personnel moves should be in place by the beginning of the spring term.

We will take several steps to make volunteer work more attractive, such as specific job descriptions, dividing jobs into manageable units and preparing a handbook for volunteers. The Board also agreed that the by-laws need revisiting to determine whether there are better ways to reorganize the Institute and elect Board directors and officers. The recommendations of a by-laws review committee will be presented to the membership for action at a special meeting in the fall.

Expanding our paid staff, furnishing an additional office, keeping our classrooms adequately equipped, and other expenses that inevitably come with growth mean that our expenses in 1999 will exceed income at current levels. We can draw on reserves to some extent in the short term, but in the long term we will need additional sources of income. The Board agreed to take two steps in 1999 in this direction. The first is to raise the annual membership fee from \$200 to \$220 beginning in fall 1999, with scholarships available to members in financial need. This is a modest increase, particularly in view of the fact that the fee would stand at almost \$240 in 1999 if the original \$200 fee had been increased every year to keep pace with inflation. The second is to institute a fund-raising program designed to secure additional donations from members and other individuals and to obtain grants from

corporate and public bodies. A Fund-Raising Committee has been created to get this enhanced activity underway.

We have been able to survive financially for eight years without raising fees because the rapid growth in membership brought in more revenue than projected, at least until a membership limit was imposed in fall 1997 in response to space constraints. The Board has now lifted the membership limit entirely, beginning with the winter 1999 term.

Lastly, I welcome new members of LRI, particularly those who have been attracted by the opening of our new site at Lake Anne in Reston. The program at Lake Anne includes some exciting courses. The best news for all members, old and new alike, is that the spring program will be the largest yet in both number of offerings and scope. Look for the spring catalog in mid-February.

Michael Styles

Closing Policy

LRI will not hold classes or events and our offices will be closed when Fairfax County schools are closed for the day because of inclement weather. We will open on time when schools open late. Tune to your TV or radio for closing or delayed-opening announcements when the weather is bad.

Note that Fairfax schools are closed January 18 (the first day of our winter term) and February 5. For those days only, a message will be on the Tallwood office answering machine (503-3384) if LRI is closed because of inclement weather.

Donations Made to LRI

The following people made donations to LRI during the fall term. There were also two anonymous contributions.

Barbara Achilles	Gerald Holmes
Florence Adler	Wylma James
Morris Allen	Barbara Jones
Kitty Arone	Anne Kelly
Richard Ashwick	Jean Kunz
Margaret and	Lilda Lando
Jefferson Bates	David London
Jan and Bob	Charles Lord
Bohall	Roman Lotsberg
Marian Brodigan	Lydia Macdonald
Marion Burgett	Anne Minor
Bob Capozzi	Murray Minster
Arthur Cook	Nelson Montague
Mary Cox	Marvina Munch
Dorothy Davies	Al Nesuda
John Frank	Donell Newsom
James Galloway	Ann Omson
Al Giles	Virginia Pernice
Joann Goodacre	Helene and Robert
Beatrice Hale	Podell
John Heffernan	Gail Ryan
Robert Helland	Ann Shell

Birmingham Green Says Thanks

Judith Lieberman reports that the residents and staff of Birmingham Green Nursing Home in Manassas

asked her to express their appreciation for the many calendars, gifts and cards that LRI members contributed in response to Judith's appeal. They are being put to good use.

Coming Next Year

The Elderhostel Institute Network, parent group to 245 retirement groups like ours around the country, will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year in Washington, D.C. The dates are June 27-29. You'll be hearing more about the program as plans take shape.

LRI in the News

You may have noticed recent articles about LRI in several Northern Virginia newspapers, focused on the opening of our new site at Lake Anne in Reston. Pictures of Lydia Macdonald and Jane Wilhelm appeared on the front page of the *Reston Connection* in December.

Joan Tullington Recognized

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently gave LRI member Joan Tullington a certificate of appreciation for her many years of service on the Tree Commission.

History Club Looks at Prohibition

At its monthly meeting on the first Wednesday in February, the History Club will discuss books about Prohibition, with Allen Raymond leading the discussion. These sessions are always interesting, and all LRI members are invited. The time is 1:30. Call Bill Deary, Coordinator of the History Club, if you have questions.

Upcoming Book Club Selections

The LRI Book Club meets at 1:30 on the second Wednesday each month. Everyone is welcome to attend. You do not have to register. You can get a copy of the year's schedule in the office. Betty Worch is the Coordinator of the Book Club and can answer any questions you may have. Scheduled for the coming months:

January 13: *The Princess, A Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudia Arabia*, by Jean Sasson (biography). Moderator: Sue Morrow.

February 10: *Cold Mountain*, by Charles Frazier (fiction). Moderator: Betty Worch.

March 10: *A Hole in the World: An American Boyhood*, by Richard Rhodes (biography). Moderator: Earl Canfield.

Where Does Your Money Go?

Judging from the applause that LRI continues to receive from its members, it must be the general feeling that we get good value for the money it costs to join the Institute. As announced in the President's letter in this issue, the Board of Directors decided to raise the membership fee beginning in the fall of 1999. You may be wondering how your membership fee is spent.

Before each new calendar year, the Board acts on a proposed budget submitted by the treasurer. The budget approved by the Board at its December meeting shows total expenditures at \$135,705 in 1999, an increase of close to 50% above expenditures in 1998. Why this apparently tremendous increase? Most of it comes from a 50% increase in personnel costs with the hiring of a new assistant administrator and the promotions of Carol to Program Coordinator and Robin to Administrator. Another big item is the one-time procurement of new office and classroom equipment (\$9,200 at Tallwood and \$3,950 at Lake Anne). There is also the addition of rent payments for the Lake Anne site (\$5,200). Other principal items in

the budget continue, such as \$8,000 for use of the Tallwood swimming pool parking lot.

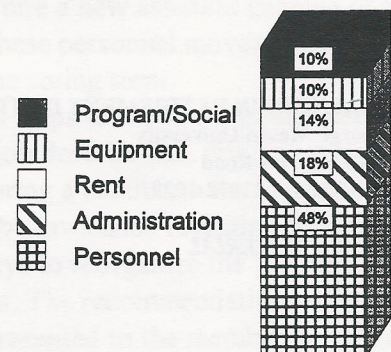
On the income side, a conservative estimate is that we can take in \$113,600 in 1999, 92% of it from membership dues. This leaves us potentially \$21,470 in deficit. We can meet the immediate deficit by drawing on the reserves that we have been able to build up over the years. This can only be a short-term solution.

The Board has adopted the guideline that, on the average, we should maintain reserves equal to about half of our expenditures. We will not meet that standard in 1999, but we can return to it by careful long-term budgeting on both the expense and income side.

On the income side, a small step is the increase in membership dues; another is an enhanced fund-raising campaign, about which you will hear more later. On the expense side, there are one-time equipment costs in 1999, plus payments for the Tallwood modular unit (TA-3). The unit will be paid for in the spring.

The chart shows how our expenses are divided for various activities in 1999. The major item is per-

sonnel, 48%, only somewhat higher than its proportion of the total in past years. The next major item is administration expenses, 18% of the total, which covers everything from upkeep of our facilities to printing, postage and other office expenses. Rent for parking at Tallwood, payment on the TA-3 modular unit and rent at Lake Anne consume 14% of the budget. Program costs (including printing the catalog) and costs for social events consume only 10% of the budget, thanks to the fact that teachers and speakers receive neither remuneration nor honorariums and many of our social events are pot-lucks to which members contribute. The other 10% represents one-time equipment costs.



We Thank You!!

Karl Opstad and Ken (Bill) Swanson worked from 8:30 to nearly dark taking down the messy mulberry tree in our back yard. Hard work well done.

And more thanks are due Allen Montecino for donating a computer for the Reston office and programming it with LRI's files. Carol and Robin appreciate all the time Allen spends cheerfully trouble-shooting the office computers.

LRI is also grateful to Roland and

Ginger Robertson for donating a Packard-Bell printer to LRI. Ginger is a former LRI member.

Bob Bohall Heads New Committee

The newly formed Fund-Raising Committee will be headed by Bob Bohall, who joined LRI last year. A former economist at the Department of Agriculture, Bob has had valuable experience serving on the Board of Directors of OAR, a Fairfax County criminal justice organization, and

chair of its public relations and development committee.

LRI's Poets in New Anthology

Several LRI poets have poems in the fall 1998 anthology "So Wonderful as Thirst," vol. 15 of *The Poet's Domain*, published by ROAD Publishers. They are Barbara Achilles, the coordinator of LRI's Poetry Workshop, Elizabeth De Arment, Joseph Fulton, Dagmar Lending, Dorothy Millner and Audrey Van Vliet.

Welcome, New Members

Phyllis Axelrod
Patricia Barnett
Sheila Barrows
Charles Beling
Dorothy Beling
Leona Benedict
Sigrid Blalock
Margaret Boiardi
Connie Bonney
Frances Bouley
Gay Bowman
Thomas Boyd
Martha Boyd
Mary Branch
Micaela Cella
Cynthia Chiarello
Pamla Clark
Garrett Cochran
Nancy Contos
Michael Coyne

Ilse Diamond
Ivan Dietrich
James Donnelly
Constance Drapeau
Raoul Drapeau
Isabelle Eitzel
Theodore Ellis
Lois Geer
Lois Gregg
Lois Harloe
Brita Harris
Arthur Hill
Betty Hill
Roxane Hughes
Richard Hunt
Fran Jackson
Harriet Kaplan
Irwin Kaplan
Martha Katz
Theodore Kornreich

Lauren (Bud) Lampert
Richard Lampert
Nancy Larson
Jean Lowe
James MacDonald
Lois Marbert
Sandra McCall
Donald McClelland
Laura McDowall
Arnette Metzger
Stan Michaels
Minnie Mills
Lyle Moe
Mary Neiderer
William Nicoson
Sandra Oldham
Barbara Pelzner
David Perlstein
Elizabeth Podol
Richard Podol

Richard Power
Minerva Reid
David Rickert
Terry Robinson
Eileen Ross
Kenneth Ruttenberg
Ray Schunter
Annemarie Shealy
Rochelle Simon
David Sitrin
Gloria Sitrin
Shirley Skolnik
Barbara Wales
Charles Wales
Dabney Waring
Ann Webster
Phyllis Wetherbee
William Wiley
Robert Willard
Sue Williams

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE

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

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