

LIR NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT, INC., AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Volume 4, No. 4

February 2007



Learning in Retirement, Inc.
P.O. Box 49182
Athens, GA 30604-9182

Telephone: 706/549-7350

Please leave a message and someone will return your call.

LIR Website Address:

www.athenslir.org

Registration, reservation, and membership forms are also available on the website.

LIR Email Address:

lir_ga@yahoo.com

Be sure we have your current email address!

LIR Officers 2006-2007

Jim Jacobson, President
Janet Stratton, Vice President
Peggy Cole, Secretary
Clarissa Finco, Treasurer

LIR Board of Directors

Ronald Cerwonka
Ann Crowley
Tony Cushenberry
Gerald Firth
Jeani Goodwin
Leo Jensen
James Kissane
Mary Munnell
Jay Shinn
Natalie Wellman

LIR Committees

Activity Groups: Ron Cerwonka

Curriculum: Jeani Goodwin

Finance: Jim Jacobson

History: Ann Crowley

Liaison: Albert Ike

Long-Range Planning: John Rudy

Membership: Sharon Tate

Public Relations: Roland Brooks

Publications: Inge Whittle

Registration: Mary Munnell and
Diane Kohl, co-chairs

Social: Phyllis Lane

Travel/Study: Pat Thomas

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Now that classes, lunch and learn sessions, travel/study trips, and social events are scheduled for late winter and spring and we begin our trips to River's Crossing for classes, I want to welcome all new members and returning members to our activities. We have a very full schedule ahead. If you have enrolled in classes with several sessions, I urge you to attend each of them. It bolsters our instructors to have continued full attendance at the sessions, and it is also what we expect, especially when some cannot get into classes because they are full. Participants will be happy to hear that we have acquired a lapel mike and amplifier for instructors to use. And, speaking of classes, remember to mark and display your parking pass hang tags properly!

The LIR board meets monthly and we are concerned that many of the decisions and other actions taken are not made available to our membership. A short summary of board activity will be part of our newsletters in future to keep you better informed.

Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to share with other members, we will allot space in the newsletter for them to be published.

Planning for the future is an important part of this board's agenda. Past president John Rudy is chair of the Planning Committee, and his committee is preparing a report for board action on critical items needing immediate action, responsibilities for follow through, and other matters requiring more detailed work. The board will be meeting in a special session on February 14 to consider and take action on this very important work.

Our membership continues to grow, and we are now at more than 385 members! Thanks for being a part of Learning in Retirement.

Jim Jacobson



The registration volunteers were kept busy at the Winter meeting!

FALL 2006 SURVEY RESULTS

(Report by John Rudy)

Here is a brief overview of highlights drawn from the LIR/UGA Adult Education autumn survey of members. Future newsletters will discuss the findings and analysis further. The information presented here is the principal platform of our Planning Committee's continuing work.

Of the 521 questionnaires sent out, 234 were completed, yielding a satisfactory participation of 45 percent and providing statistically valid results. Our database shows that 62 percent of members joined after 2000; 67 percent are females; 46 percent are aged 70-79; 36 percent, 53-69; and 18 percent, 80 and counting. Fifty-two percent hold advanced degrees.

Core findings are presented below. If you have any comments or ideas on these results feel free to relay them to any member of the Planning Committee: John Rudy, Dick Anderson, Kathy Gratzek, Jim Jacobson, Sandy Jordan, and Janet Stratton.

1. Most valued programs:

- Courses (99 percent)
- Lunch & Learn (90 percent)
- Travel/study (87 percent)
- Activity/interest groups (84 percent)
- Social activities (79 percent)

Members before 2000 give significantly higher valuations. Younger members assign lowest valuations (exception: activity/interest groups). Women members give higher value to travel/study, activity/interest groups, and social events. Participation pattern is similar for each category, but one-third less overall.

2. Officer/board/committee participation in one or more:

Of total members (20 percent)

Participation by newer members is under 8 percent, by younger, much less; by women members, slightly lower.

3. Interest in proposed courses (six highest shown):

- History (86 percent)
- Geography (79 percent)
- Music appreciation (78 percent)
- Art appreciation (78 percent)
- Health/medicine (77 percent)
- Environment (76 percent)

No significant variations show up between pre- and post-2000 members except that more interest is shown by pre-2000 group and older members in health/medicine and a higher interest in art and music appreciation is shown by younger members. Women members are more enthusiastic about art and music appreciation than are men.

4. Interest in activity/interest groups:

38 percent would like to participate in –

- Antiques/historic places (27 percent)
- Walking/hiking (22 percent)
- Gourmet lunch/dinners (21 percent)
- Genealogy (19 percent)

Recent members, younger members, and women are significantly more interested in these than are older members (excepting only gourmet meals!). Present rates of participation are less than 8 percent in any current groups.

5. Interest in possible new services in which LIR could take a role:

- Reliable home maintenance/repair (67 percent)
- Arrangement of reliable transportation (66 percent)
- Arrangement of trustworthy home visits and telephone contact for members living alone (66 percent)

No significant differences exist between pre- and post-2000 members or younger or older members except that those over 80 lead the pack in interest. There are no notable differences between women and men.

Calendar Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 18	Town and Gown Matinee: <i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>
Wednesday, February 28	Dinner at Carrabba's
Wednesday, March 14	Coffee at UGA's Center for Continuing Education
Wednesday, March 21	Lunch at Applebee's
Tuesday, April 3	Coffee at Big City Bread
Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21	Abbeville Theater Weekend (note date change)

Hands of the Spirit

March 23, 24, 30, 31 / April 1

In December 2005, LIR members were treated to a wonderful Lunch and Learn lecture presented by Mary Padgelek, an instructor at the University's Lamar Dodd School of Art. The topic was "Hands of the Spirit: the Story of Visionary Artist J. B. Murray." Dr. Padgelek also announced she had written the musical *Hands of the Spirit* to be produced in Athens in the future. That time has come.

Athens Creative Theatre will be performing the show at the Morton Theater, on Washington Avenue, on the evenings of March 23, 24, 30, 31 (7:30 p.m.) and on April 1 (3:00 matinee). Cost is \$15 per adult, \$12 per senior. This is not announced as a group activity, but call a friend or friends and plan to go.

CLASSES STILL AVAILABLE

Several classes and all lunch and learn programs still have openings. They are listed below and a registration form is included with this issue. For a full course or lecture description, see the newsletter that you received in December or go to our website at www.athenslir.org. Just click the newsletters link in the sidebar on the left and proceed from there to December 2006.

Most of the courses will be held at River's Crossing; however, some exceptions are noted. Lunch and Learn programs will take place on Mondays at the Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA), 135 Hoyt Street, from 11:00 until 1:00 and cost \$15 per person.

COURSES

Dreamwork in Modern Christianity

Wednesday: Apr. 18, 25 / May 2; 10:00-11:30; Room 113; \$9

Estate Planning

Thursday: Apr. 5; 10:00-11:30; Room 139; \$3

Great Decisions 2007

Tuesday: Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 / Apr. 3, 10; 10:30-12:00; Room 139; \$33

Long-Term Care Insurance and Reverse Mortgages

Thursday: April 12; 10:00-11:30; Room 139; \$3

Machiavelli: *The Prince* – An Archetype of Political Power

Wednesday: Mar. 21, 28; 10:00-11:30; Room 135; \$6

Making Herbal Salves

Monday: Feb. 19; 10:00-12:00; ACCA; \$13

Many Faces of Love

Thursday: Mar. 22, 29; 10:00-11:30; Room 136; \$6

Spring Naturally into Spring

Thursday: May 3, 10, 17, 24; 10:00-12:00; Sandy Creek Nature Center; \$20

Three Views of UGA

Wednesday: May 9; 10:00-11:00; Room 136 / May 16, 23 – tours; \$9

LUNCH AND LEARN LECTURES

Poverty in Athens-Clarke County

Monday: Feb. 12; 11:00-1:00; ACCA

Education and Good Citizenship

Monday; Mar. 12; 11:00-1:00; ACCA

The Latest from UGA, a Rising Star in American Education

Monday; Apr. 2; 11:00-1:00; ACCA

Fighting Hunger in Northeast Georgia

Monday: May 14; 11:00-1:00; ACCA

Please mail the registration form with your check made payable to *Learning in Retirement, Inc.*, to Amy Munnell, 125 University Drive, Athens, GA 30605-1435. If you have a question about registration, email Amy at nega_writer@yahoo.com or call her at 706-354-0361.

SPRING TRAVEL/STUDY EVENT

Abbeville Theater Weekend

Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21 – note date change

This theatre weekend package, repeated by request, includes an overnight stay at the historic Belmont Inn in Abbeville, S.C., tickets to the Burt Stark Mansion, a complimentary wine get-together on Friday afternoon, fine dining choices from the menu for dinner, coffee and dessert at the Inn after the play, and tickets for the Abbeville Opera House performance of *Daddy's Dying, Who's got the Will?* A continental breakfast is included on Saturday morning.

Abbeville is a community replete with history and art. Jefferson Davis, Sarah Bernhart, and John C. Calhoun played parts in its rich history. The Abbeville Opera House, with its scarlet and gold interior, is the official State Theatre of South Carolina. Paintings depicting 100 years of Abbeville history are displayed at the Welcome Center. For shoppers, spacious tree-lined Court Square offers enticing opportunities.

The cost of the weekend package is \$189 per couple for a deluxe queen bedroom or \$159 for a twin bedroom. Transportation to and from Abbeville is not included. You may wish to carpool or to drive yourself. Need a roommate? Let us know. SPACE IS LIMITED, so please first call Frances Lang at 706-353-7733 to reserve your space, ask any questions, and obtain directions. Once Frances confirms your reservation, send full payment to her by March 20. Mail your check, made payable to *Learning in Retirement, Inc.*, with the reservation form to Frances Lang, 156 South Homewood Drive, Athens, GA 30606-1704. **Payment is due by March 20.**

WINTER/SPRING SOCIAL EVENTS

Reminders.....

Sunday, February 18, 2:00

There may still be time to get in on the Town and Gown presentation of *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Details are in the December 2006 newsletter. Call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606. *Reservations are due by February 12.*

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30

If you haven't called Phyllis Lane (706-548-1606) to reserve a seat for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grille, you still can. *Reservations are due by February 24.*

Coffee at UGA's Center for Continuing Education Wednesday, March 14, 10:00

Popular sites get revisited, and this is one of them. Join folks at the Georgia Center's cafeteria, and if the weather is good we'll move outside to the partly sheltered patio. A parking lot adjoins the building, and for a \$4.00 purchase an hour will be cut off the parking time.

**Lunch at Applebee's
Wednesday, March 21, noon**

Located on West Broad Street next to the Hampton Inn, Applebee's offers a comfortable and casual atmosphere and a wide variety of entrees, some even tailored to dieters. The lunch menu also offers smaller versions of Applebee's generous-sized salads. To be seated together we will need reservations. Again, call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606 and leave your name and phone number if she is not here. *Reservations due by March 19.*

**Coffee at Big City Bread
Tuesday, April 3, 10:00**

Barring April showers, LIR members should be able to sit out on the comfortable patio and visit with friends. The coffee and tea varieties are awesome and the beckoning baked goods and pastries always abundant. Big City Bread is located one block behind Wendy's on Prince Avenue and offers convenient parking.

We Want to Know . . .

Do you have a question, a suggestion, or even a thank you for LIR? Let us know. Call 706-549-7350 or email lir_ga@yahoo.com and your message will be passed on to the officers and board.

☞ Remember to wear your name tag to all LIR functions!

Membership, registration and reservation forms are always available to print at the LIR website www.athenslir.org



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Learning
IN Retirement!!! Inc.**
P.O. Box 49182
Athens, GA 30604-9182

WINTER/SPRING 2007 LATE COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I want to register for the following course(s):

_____ Cost \$ _____

_____ Cost \$ _____

_____ Cost \$ _____

I want to register for Lunch and Learn on:

_____ (dates) @ \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make your check payable to *Learning in Retirement, Inc.*, and mail with this form to Amy Munnell, 125 University Drive, Athens, GA 30605-1435.

Abbeville Theatre Weekend, Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21

(Call Frances Lang at 706-353-7733 first for reservation)

Payment is due by March 20

Remember that space is limited

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Cost is \$159 or \$189 per couple and includes all expenses. Designate below.

\$159 per couple for twin bedroom: \$ _____ enclosed

\$189 per couple for deluxe queen bedroom: \$ _____ enclosed

Mail this reservation form with check made payable to *Learning in Retirement, Inc.*, to Frances Lang, 156 South Homewood Drive, Athens, GA 30606-1704.