

# LIR NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 4, No. 6

May 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](http://www.athenslir.org)**  
Registration, reservation, and  
membership forms are also  
available on the website.

**LIR Email Address:**  
**[lir\\_ga@yahoo.com](mailto: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**  
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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

Many thanks to nearly 100 of our 400+ members who attended the April 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting! This was an important meeting including discussion on the future direction of LIR, and having so many of our membership represented was gratifying.

Although LIR is a volunteer-run organization, there comes a time when more is needed than an "all-volunteer work force." We now have two part time people who are absolutely essential for the success of Registration and for the production of our Membership Directory and Newsletter. The burdens on the Curriculum Committee and others are to the point where volunteers no longer care to serve with all the detail work involved. It is time to consider other alternatives.

Recognizing this, the Officers and Board prepared a budget including funds for a part time "Program Coordinator." Some funds were budgeted from our "Reserves," and the remainder will be funded by the members as dues will be \$40.00 per year per member (raised from \$35.00), and class fees will be \$5.00 per class session (raised from \$3.00 per session). The budget was discussed and approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Interviews have been completed and the Board has approved the interview committee's "recommendation-to-hire." She is being hired within the parameters of the budget, will start the first week of July, be part time starting with 15 hours per week, and will have an office at River's Crossing. More information will be forthcoming when all the details have been completed.

Thanks for your support!  
Jim Jacobson



Members turned out in full force for the April 13th Annual Meeting of LIR. In between various items of business, Jay Shinn took the opportunity to thank outgoing president Jim Jacobson for his excellent and conscientious leadership for the year and to present him with a gift card to Borders. *Photo courtesy of Bill Flatt.*

## LIR SUMMER PLANS FOR FUN, FUN, FUN

*see page 2 for more details*

Sunday, June 10  
Wednesday, June 13  
Sunday, June 24  
Wednesday, July 11  
Wednesday, July 25  
Wednesday, August 8  
Wednesday, August 22

Brunch at Porterhouse Grill  
Ice Cream Club at Beechwood  
Town & Gown Theater "Trip to Bountiful"  
Morning Coffee Break at Big City Bread Co.  
Lunch at Harry Bissett's, Mitchell Bridge Rd.  
Afternoon Coffee Break at Barnes & Noble  
Lunch at Le Maison Bleu in Watkinsville  
*(Reservations by July 30)*

### Porterhouse Grill Brunch

Brunch on Sunday, June 10, from 11:30 - 2:00 will be at the Porterhouse Grill at 459 E. Broad Street next to B.B. & T. Bank at the corner of Thomas /East Campus. Now that many of the UGA students are away for the summer, it seems like a good time to eat downtown as parking should be easier. Make your reservation by Friday, June 8 by calling Mary Ready at 706-552-0508.

### Ice Cream Afternoon

Summer is here so can ice cream be far behind? Not if we meet Wednesday, June 13 at 2:00pm at the Ice Cream Club in Beechwood Shopping Center. There's tasty, rich ice cream and interesting shops near by. See you there!

### Town and Gown Theater

Sunday, June 24, at 2:00pm matinee performance at the Town and Gown Theater, Grady Avenue, behind the Taylor-Grady House on Prince Avenue. Tickets are \$5.00 for this presentation of Morton Foote's "Trip to Bountiful," a tale of realism, humor and heartbreak. You may remember that Geraldine Page won an academy award for this role. Town and Gown can no doubt hold its own with their performance. For reservations and cancellations, call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606. You will pay for your tickets on site, and they will be held at the box office until 5 minutes before the performance.

### Morning Coffee Break

On Wednesday, July 11 from 10:00 -11:30 now that Independence Day Celebrations are over, let's meet for a relaxing coffee at Big City Bread on North Finley Street. This is a favorite LIR destination for their bread, sweet rolls, scones and other goodies.

### Lunch at Harry Bissett's

Lunch on Wednesday, July 25, at 11:30 will be at the still comparatively new Harry Bissett's New Orleans Café on Mitchell Bridge Road. It is hard to miss their *avant garde* blue and turquoise building. The Cajun flavor is optional here. Make your reservation by Sunday, July 22 by calling Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606.

### Afternoon Coffee & Cheesecake Break

Wednesday, August 8, at 2:00 is the time for a coffee break at Barnes & Noble, located on the Atlanta Highway. The menu is good coffee (or a coke) with cheesecake from the "Cheesecake Factory" optional. Just a time to chat with friends, and of course to browse in the bookstore.

### Lunch at Le Maison Bleu

(Reservation by July 30 to Phyllis Lane, 706-548-1606) August and the heat is on, so let's have lunch at the cool restaurant "Le Maison Bleu" in Watkinsville. It is in the new Town Center at the intersection of Barnett Shoals Road and U.S. 441 in the downtown business district. Chef Ann is the owner and produces some interesting dishes. Lunch is Wednesday, August 22 at 11:30.

### EXOTIC CHICKEN BREEDS AND POULTRY RESEARCH TOUR

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007**

Start the fall season with an informative morning at the UGA Poultry Research Center on Milledge. We will be shown "state of the art" egg production facilities, commercial poultry housing, a food processing plant and yes, fascinating exotic chickens. Chicken production is very important to the State of Georgia and we will spend a full morning on a research centered tour of working, commercial style operations. There will be no charge for this event. We will car pool from a central location. Walking shoes are a necessity. More information and a registration form will be available in the August Newsletter.

### A DAY AT STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

**Saturday, October 20**

This is a touch of Scotland without a passport. We will travel by bus to the park to enjoy pipe bands, dancers, athletic competition, harping and fiddling demonstration and lots of other entertainment. Artisans will display their wares, and food vendors will be sprinkled throughout. Eating will be on your own. Be sure to wear good walking shoes, and you may want to bring a lawn chair or stool since seating in some areas is limited. Additional information and the registration information will be in the August newsletter.

### DISCOVER THE WEST THROUGH ART

**November 7, 2007**

The Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, GA, offers an experience unique in the Southeast—the opportunity to explore the American West through contemporary art. Additional galleries feature Presidential letters and photographs, Civil War art, western movie posters and western illustrations. A new, special collection of original letters by each of America's Vice-Presidents will be available. We will enjoy an "Art for Lunch" lecture at the Booth and the opportunity in the afternoon to stay at the Booth, visit the Bartow County History Center or, another option, visit the Mineral Museum. This has been a very popular trip. The beautiful, new, 80,000 sq. ft. museum is one of Georgia's excellent educational and fun destinations. Additional information and a registration form will be included in the August Newsletter.

### GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S MANSION AND IKEA ATLANTA Early December

What a nice time of the year to visit our governor's mansion and enjoy the splendor of its Christmas decorations, music, and light refreshments. We will then travel to *IKEA Atlanta* for lunch and shopping. A selection of traditional Swedish and American food, at a reasonable price, will be available in the IKEA restaurant. You may go to [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com) and select visit IKEA Atlanta's virtual Tour to get additional information about IKEA. Complete information will be in the fall newsletters.

### ATTENTION: CLASS MEMBERS OF "1491: THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS"

Dr. Marion Rice has notified us that the lead article in the *National Geographic* for May 2007 is by Charles C. Mann, author of the text for that class, and is entitled "America, Found and Lost."

This article is about the settlement of Jamestown, the impact of European contact on the Indian population, and the cultivation of tobacco as a money export crop. If you would like to read it and cannot find a copy, contact Dr. Rice at 706-549-6304. Or read it online at [www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0705/feature1/index.html](http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0705/feature1/index.html)



Some members of the LIR Winter class "1491" organized a do-it-yourself trip to the Etowah Mound near Cartersville. This mound, the largest in Georgia, is an exemplar of Indian ceremonial mounds from the Missippian period found in different parts of the United States—Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, and Alabama as well as Georgia. Photo courtesy of Jenny Best.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW LIR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

### **Janet Stratton, President**

Janet, an Iowa native, retired in 1998 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City as director for Continuing Education and the Office of Extended Programs. She has made Georgia her home since that time and enjoys living in this area. One bonus is that one of her six grandchildren, Jessica, will be a freshman at UGA this fall. Janet is a long-time breeder of Arabian horses and lives on 13 acres in Oconee County with four horses, a Red Heeler dog, and a barn cat.

### **Jim Tanner, Vice President**

Raised in Idaho, Jim went to Utah to pursue his higher education, studying business and engineering there. He worked in various capacities including the utilities business before settling in at Kimberley-Clark, in Wisconsin, for 25 years, dealing with new product development. Family ties, the appeal of a warmer climate, and an opportunity at the Roswell plant brought him to Athens the year before his retirement. Clearly not one to sit around idly, Jim can be found in LIR classes—taking them and teaching them—various book and discussion groups, and art classes. He is thoroughly enjoying his retirement and doesn't miss stress and commuting one bit.

### **Peggy Cole, Secretary**

Peggy hails from Bay Village, Ohio. She graduated from Miami University and later received graduate degrees from UGA. An elementary school teacher for 35 years, she taught for 30 of those in the Clarke County School District. She is active with LIR and the Piedmont Gardeners. In fact, gardening and travel are her passions: she has gone fly fishing in Alaska, snorkeled on the coast of Venezuela, and sailed down the Amazon on an old steamer. She recently headed to Amsterdam with her best childhood buddy to see the tulips.

### **Clarissa Finco, Treasurer**

A Minnesotan, Clarissa grew up in Farmington and then went on to the University of Minnesota. Marriage and children interrupted her studies, and it wasn't until after she and her husband moved to Athens in 1970 and Clarissa was in her 40s that she decided it was time to go back to school. She received a degree in business and an M.B.A. from UGA before working for several not-for-profit organizations in the community. A mother of four and grandmother of five, Clarissa retired 10 years ago and has kept busy. She's active with the Unitarian Fellowship, LIR, and several book groups. But in addition to enjoying reading, she is also a well-seasoned traveler. Recent trips have included Ecuador, Africa, Alaska, and she is very excited about an upcoming biggie – Antarctica.

### **Anita Brannen, Board Member**

Anita, a native of northwest Georgia, met and fell in love with a Brunswick boy at UGA, and they married while students here. Barney's 20 years in the military kept the family moving around until they returned to Athens and his work with the University's Institute of Continuing Legal Education. They have since lived in New Hampshire but are now back permanently. A woman of diverse talents and interests, Anita has worked in counseling, teaching, and real estate, and loves being a student, as evidenced by past graduate courses. Nowadays, she is fully enjoying her retirement years.

### **Bill Flatt, Board Member**

A native of Tennessee, Bill did his undergraduate work in Knoxville before going on to Cornell University to earn his Ph.D. in animal nutrition. After working as a researcher for the U.S.

Department of Agriculture in Maryland, he came to UGA in 1969. Beginning his tenure here as head of the Animal Science Department, he held various leadership positions before becoming dean of the College of Agriculture in 1981. Although he retired from the deanship in 1994, he taught nutrition in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences until his retirement from the University and continues to give guest lectures on nutrition. Currently he is enjoying taking Pilates, and we all know him as the cheerful man behind the flashing camera at our classes and other get-togethers. By the way, thank you, Bill.

### **Kathy Gratzek, Board Member**

Kathy, a long-time resident of Athens, grew up in Minnesota and earned her B.S. at Dominican University in Chicago. Then came marriage and four children. When her youngest entered grade school, she returned to school herself, earning a master's of social work from UGA that launched her into a 20-year career with the Northeast Georgia Mental Health Center. Retirement has not cramped her style. Kathy has worked ceaselessly as a volunteer in our community, including for LIR as a member of numerous committees and as vice president. She and her husband love traveling and have just returned from Guatemala. Other consuming interests are swimming, tennis, and reading. Never a dull moment.

### **Jane Kelly, Board Member**

A native of Peoria, Illinois, Jane has lived in Athens since 1967. It was at UGA, after having four kids, that she finished her education degree and graduate work. Some of us will remember Jane as the one who taught our son or daughter Latin at Cedar Shoals High School. Jane's interests and activities seem endless. She scuba dives; she loves learning and makes the most of LIR and Georgia Center courses; and she is a very active in the Athens community, volunteering at the State Botanical Garden, for the Community Emergency Response Team, and as a coordinator for the Athens Senior Leadership Academy. But the biggest excitement is yet to come. She is about to become a great grandparent, and of twins, no less.

### **John Songster, Board Member**

John grew up in Rochester, New York, and earned a degree in engineering from Purdue University. After six years as an air force pilot during the Vietnam War, he went to work for Rockwell International. After many years with the company, during which time he also acquired a business degree, he moved to Baltimore, started his own business, and did some teaching at the University of Maryland. In 2004, he and his wife moved to Athens to be near their son and grandchildren, and they have not regretted their move. John thoroughly enjoys the area and his LIR involvement. He commits three days a week to Habitat for Humanity and is an avid cyclist who hopes to stir up some interest in the activity on a senior level with other LIR members.



LIR members are not ones to be left behind in this world of technology. Six computer-related courses were offered in the winter semester, taught by three instructors. Here, Walter O'Briant introduces his class to the Microsoft Windows operating system. Photo by Bill Flatt.

## NEW COMPUTER COURSE CURRICULUM

At its May 1st meeting, the Curriculum Committee approved a proposal to revise and standardize the computer curriculum. The proposal was created at the request of the Committee and was a joint effort of the three current instructors. It takes effect with the fall schedule.

Four changes will be most obvious:

1. Course titles for similar content will not vary by instructor.
2. The offering of courses will follow a more regular schedule of rotation.
3. Course descriptions will include pre-requisites as part of an overall effort to reduce the degree of disparity in knowledge and skills among the students in a given class.
4. A new course on personal digital technology will be offered.

Courses may vary from 3 to 5 class sessions, depending on the course. The courses are listed here with a schedule of rotation:

Course Title	Offered
Intro to Personal Digital Technology	once per year
Intro to Microsoft Windows, Part 1	Oct-Nov, Feb-Mar
Intro to Microsoft Windows, Part 2	Jan-Feb, Apr-May
Basic Skills in Microsoft Word	twice per year
Intermediate Skills in Microsoft Word	once per year
Basic Skills in Microsoft Publisher	as justified
Basic Skills in Microsoft Excel	as justified
Basic Skills in Microsoft PowerPoint	once per year
Introduction to the Internet	twice per year

***Enclosed are two 2007-2008 membership forms. Pass one on to a friend!  
Current newsletters, membership and registration forms are on the LIR website [www.athenslir.org](http://www.athenslir.org)***



***FIRST CLASS MAIL***

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



Membership Form
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Name (Please use a separate form for each member - also print from the LIR website www.athenslir.org.)

Mailing Address

City State Zip+4

Phone (H) (W) Email (Important - we send out email notices about special events)

Form with checkboxes for New member, Renewal, and Class Presenter\*

May we list your name, address, phone and email address in a directory for LIR members? Yes No

Do you want to get the newsletter by an email attachment instead of a paper copy in the mail? Yes No (The computer sending LIR materials is virus protected. The newsletter is also posted on the LIR website.)

Would you like a UGA library card? Yes No

Annual membership for Learning in Retirement is \$40 per person. Make check payable to Learning in Retirement, Inc., and mail to Sharon Tate, 101 Trillium Lane, Athens, GA 30605-4972.

Make the most of your membership! Please indicate your interests in the following areas:

COMMITTEES: At the heart of LIR's programs are its committees. Members plan and organize all activities - educational, travel and social. This is one way to meet members you might not otherwise get to know.

Form with checkboxes for Curriculum, Social, Membership, Public Relations, Travel/Study, and Publications/Newsletter

Would you like to teach a course? \* If you would, please describe the topic.

Two horizontal lines for describing a course topic

INTEREST GROUPS: Interest groups meet in non-classroom settings, with no instruction offered. Please indicate your interest in any listed group or suggest another that might interest you. Interest groups are self-governing.

Form with checkboxes for various interest groups: Bonsai, Fitness, Stitch & Chat, Book Discussion, Lady Dogs Basketball, Other, Bridge, (UGA), Conversations en Français, Quilting

Remember to enclose this completed form with your check payable to Learning in Retirement, Inc. and mail to Sharon Tate, 101 Trillium Lane, Athens, GA 30605-4972 Telephone: 706/549-7350 Email: lir\_ga@yahoo.com Web Page: www.athenslir.org

\* Beginning July 1, 2007, course presenters will be offered one free LIR membership for the current year as a thank-you for their time.