

Nostalgic View of a Lost Culture

Beautiful and Coquettish

February 24, 1998
Volume 2 – Number 2

News & Views

The Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia ♦ c/o NVCC Continuing Education ♦ 8333 Little River Turnpike ♦ Armandale, Virginia 22003 ♦ Phone (703) 503-0600 ♦ FAX (703) 503-5350

Our guest speaker at the monthly open-house program on Monday, March 2, will be Ms. Lenore Fein. An employee of the National Museum of American Art, she will present an hour-long slide-and-talk show with background music that traces the cultural and artistic story of ladies' hand-held fans in the context of Oriental and European social history and the decorative arts.

She will show us more than 100 slides depicting images of costumes, mythological paintings, and decorative portraits that shared inspiration with fans and other period pieces. The develop-

ment is traced from Oriental and Biblical times when the fan was a practical item for keeping cool to the 17th through 19th centuries when fans were an essential part of a lady's attire and, perhaps for some, a flirting device, seen in the fashionable courts, salons, and drawing rooms in the European capitals.

Ms. Fein has authored several articles on fans and reviewed books on the history of costumes. She has her Fine Arts degree from American University and has studied Art History and Museology at George Washington University.

The President's Corner

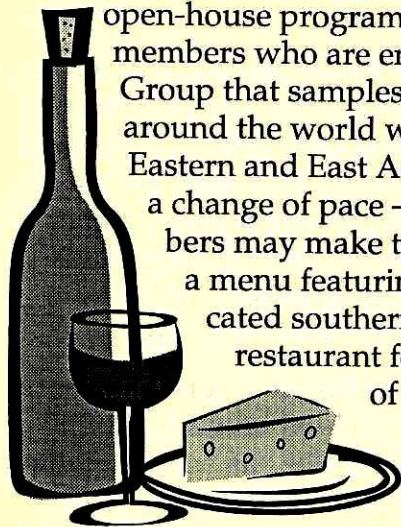
This is a call for help! One of the major challenges to the growth of our LLI program has been in finding suitable space to hold the increasing number of courses that we are trying to develop to meet the needs and interests of our membership. With the ever-increasing NVCC student enrollment, there are serious limitations in the availability of classrooms and convenient parking on campus. Thus from the beginning of LLI it has been obvious that we needed to find space off campus for most of our classes. A logical place to look seemed to be at churches, many of which have rooms available during Monday-Friday daytime hours with convenient parking. For our Winter/Spring Program we have scheduled 19 courses to be held at churches. Most of them are at the Little River United Church of Christ. We have recently been informed, however, that the long-planned renovation/expansion building plans there are nearing execution and that we should start looking for other space to use during the construction period beginning later this year.

There are dozens of churches and synagogues within the area that would be reasonably convenient for our members to reach. The use of these facilities would also have the advantage of helping to enhance the sense of community within the area where many of our members live. So, it would be very helpful if LLI members would investigate the possible use of space in churches or synagogues with which they are familiar and let me or Alan Mayer know of what space may be available. This would also apply to any other space that you can think of that would possibly be suitable and available to us, e.g., meeting rooms in congregate residencies or community facilities. Our overall objective is to make the richest program we can devise available to the largest number of older adults at sites convenient for them. We have barely begun to fulfill our potential. With all members working together we can move steadily forward in building an institute of which we can all be proud.

Knox Singleton, 532-2409

Our Monthly Luncheon

A Change of Pace



At the monthly luncheon, following the open-house program on March 2, LLI members who are enrolled in the Dining Group that samples ethnic cuisines from around the world will leave the Middle Eastern and East Asian circuit and – for a change of pace – go European. Members may make their selections from a menu featuring hearty, uncomplicated southern Italian dishes. Our restaurant for March is the Pines of Florence (7151 Lee

Highway, a.k.a. South Washington Street) in Falls Church. Meeting

time is between 12 noon and 12:15 p.m. There is room to accommodate a few more members and guests than the usual 18 including the hosts Marjorie Clark and George Staten. Directions will be available during the open-house program at the Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus on Monday, March 2.

The Inside Track

The recently expanded Board of Directors convenes once a month to set goals and policies for our Lifetime Learning Institute, assuring that it has the resources to meet those ends and working toward an increase in membership and the number of programs available to the membership – all the while keeping LLI on a sound financial footing.

Wouldn't you like to sit in on some of your Board's discussions, find out what the leadership is thinking, perhaps adding your own input to the deliberations? You can. The Board invites all members of the Institute to attend, but please not all at the same time. In the months ahead, the 15-member board will convene on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., specifically on March 23, April 20, May 18, and June 15 in one of the rooms off the Forum at the Ernst Community Cultural Center at the Annandale Campus.

Many Flock to Hear Talk on Native Americans

Some sort of attendance record was set at the last open-house program on February 2. Seventy-six members and guests came to listen to Irene Herder talk about the Navajo Nation. Not only did the 76 attendees constitute – for us – an audience of significant size, but what was surprising was that more than 40% of those present came as the result of the good work of the membership – spreading the word and the publicity releases and posters specifically signaling the talk.

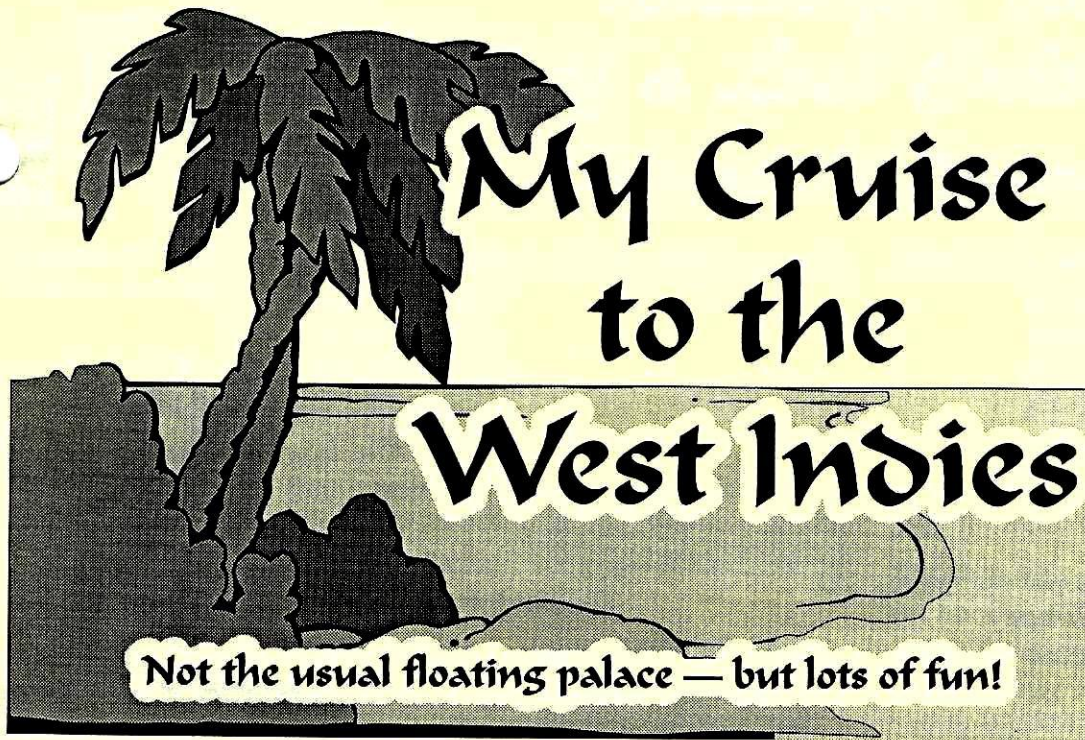


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The captain hails from Alexandria, Virginia, so Ruth and I received a little special attention. By sheer luck we had the largest digs ("stateroom") on the ship. Most of our docking consisted of wet landings – we climbed down a rickety metal ladder that was hung over the side of the ship, from there we stepped, jumped or were lifted into the tender (wooden lifeboats of Tallulah Bankhead vintage) and motored to the beach.

Upon reaching the

beach the crew placed a ladder over the side, and we clambered down onto the beach, being gently rocked or pounded by the waves all the while. After getting our fill of sunning, swimming and snorkeling, we did the same thing, in reverse order. The crew who assisted us in these wet and dry landings were West Indians, who had muscles of iron. Speaking of muscles, Ruth and I used ours, which until then we were unaware of even possessing. Most of the passengers were over 55, and surprisingly there were no broken bones or serious accidents.

Each evening at about 5:30 we had snacks and swizzles (punch with or without rum). Dinner was at 6:30 and we had a choice of two entrees. Morning fare was the usual, but for lunch we had usually salads consisting of lots of fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood. There was open seating. Before the trip was over, we had visited at least once with every passenger.

There is much more to tell; however, if you are interested in learning more, you can call Travel Tips, located in New York at 1-800-872-8584 or write to Windjammer Barefoot Cruises, P. O. Box 190-120, Miami Beach, Florida 33119-0120. The price for our trip was about \$3000 plus airfare; or you could go for just 13 days, which would be cheaper.

Mary Montgomery, LLI Member

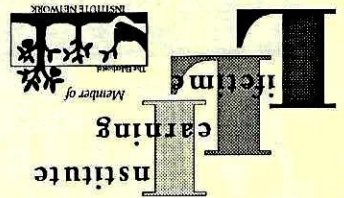
My friend Ruth and I began our 26-day trip on December 27, 1997. On our flight to Freeport we rocked and rolled before we even boarded the ship. It was so rough that the meal service had to be canceled.

At 5:00 p.m. we boarded the Amazing Grace and were greeted by Captain Pete Hall. The Amazing Grace is a 257-foot ex-workhorse vessel that formerly sailed the North Sea delivering supplies to lighthouse keepers along the coast of England and Scotland. After refurbishing, she can now accommodate 94 passengers and a crew of 40. Her job now is to shuttle among the Windjammer fleet of five tall sailing ships carrying under a hundred passengers and supplies (mostly oil and beer). The tall ships slip in and around the Caribbean islands. They accommodate from 64 to 120 people and are called "barefoot cruises."

The Grace departs from the Bahamas monthly, visiting islands and secluded beaches. She sails south to Trinidad – a 13-day voyage – then north back to Freeport visiting different islands and beaches on each trip.

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"Never regard study as a duty but as an enviable opportunity to learn to know the liberating influence of beauty in the realm of the spirit for your own personal joy and to the profit of the community to which your later works belong."

- Albert Einstein

"Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?"

- Erich Fromm

Parlez-vous français?

Interested in improving your French and reviving your palate? Join the *Alliance française d'Alexandria*, a new French-language club in "Old Town." It meets at various French restaurants. No fees or dues, just — of course — the cost of your lunches or dinners. Call François Downing at (703) 299-1735.

LLI Monthly Lecture Series

Speaker: Ms. Lenore Fein
Smithsonian Institution

Subject: History and Culture
of decorative fans

Monday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. / The Forum

Spring Courses Still Available

There are still openings in some of the classes. Check with the office to see whether there's room in the course of your choice.