

Do You Remember Maryellen Rossmiller?

It's a small Lee 55+ world! Greetings from Maryellen Rossmiller, all the way from Racine, Wisconsin. Maryellen taught dance at Lee and other area senior centers. Apparently, Maryellen found out that Louise Menn had called Lee to see if anyone still remembered her. So Maryellen sent a letter addressed to the Lee Dancers to reassure Louise that she did. Along with her letter, Maryellen also enclosed some old photos from her days in Arlington. All of the photos are on display on the gym bulletin board. If you would like to get back in touch with Maryellen, please let us know and we can provide her address.

Here is a sampling of two of the photos Maryellen sent, so you can enjoy a stroll down memory lane:



BECOMING THE GEICO GECKO



On January 28, Lee was packed with about 43 people from all over Arlington who came to hear about the creation of the iconic GEICO Gecko advertising campaign. Our speaker, Pat Dubin, was the GEICO Insurance Company's Creative Director for many years. Pat was responsible for all aspects of GEICO's marketing and was personally involved in overseeing the development of the Gecko character. As such, she was able to give us a first-hand account of how the Gecko came to be.

The campaign was ground-breaking. Never before had humor been used to sell a product as serious as car insurance. At first, company executives were reluctant to take the risk, but they eventually came around. The GEICO Gecko caught on and the rest, as they say, is advertising history. Now, several companies have followed GEICO's example.

Pat discussed the challenges of finding just the right person to be the voice of the Gecko. It took a global search to find the gentleman who had just the right accent and appeal. To trace the evolution of the Gecko character, Pat showed clips of several TV spots featuring the Gecko as he matured. Judging from our audience's reception, the ads are as fresh and funny as they were then. They certainly made people remember GEICO insurance and were tremendously successful for the company.

Many thanks to Jean Jackson who suggested this program. It was a smash hit!

LEE 55+ Center

5722 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207 *703-228-0555* Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm



A Note from Sheila and Stephanie:

Never mind your 23andMe DNA test results! When it comes to St. Patrick's Day, there's a little bit of Irish in all of us. Wear your green and join the fun on Friday, March 13, noon-2pm for an Irish culture fest. The Rocking Chairs will entertain and Tom Sipusic and Fran Field will teach us how to dance like we're Irish. Please sign up at the front desk by March 9.

Please look inside for information about the many great programs coming up at Lee in March. There are far too many to highlight here. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Also—please see our April Preview column so you can plan your April appointments and outings well in advance. We don't want you to miss any Lee programs!

55+ PROGRAM REGISTRATION for Arlington Residents will begin on Monday, March 2 at 10am.

55+ PROGRAM REGISTRATION for Out-of-County Residents will begin on Tuesday, March 3 at 10am.

IN-PERSON 55+ TRAVEL REGISTRATION for Arlington Residents will be held on Monday, March 9, 10am-noon.

TRAVEL REGISTRATION for Out-of-County Residents will begin on Tuesday, March 10 at noon.

Email Notices from Lee: If you would like to receive an electronic newsletter from the County with updates about activities and events at Lee, you can sign up online at <https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/inside-arlington-newsletter/>. Please ask Sheila or Stephanie if you have any questions about how to do this.

We're looking forward to seeing you here at Lee—your place to connect!!

"I SAY LUCK IS WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY COMES ALONG, AND YOU'RE PREPARED FOR IT."

- DENZEL WASHINGTON

Center Staff

Sheila Budoff
Stephanie Shaw

Front Desk Volunteers

Roberta Thibodaux
Susie Bachtel
Myrna Manolis

Lee/Madison Advisory Committee:

Tom Sipusic
Chair
Tom Curtis
Vice-Chair
Eileen Bogdanoff and Jean Jackson
Co-Treasurers
Penny Curtis
Secretary

At-large:

Caral Bennett
Ira Birnbaum
Inge Ercolano
Debbie Everdale
Fran Field
Jean Jackson
Eileen Kenna
Bob Lamp
Roberta Thibodaux
Mary Wingo

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CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Lee Walkers



Stay active with friendly walking companions. We walk two to three miles, indoors or out, depending on conditions. Destinations may be changed, or excursions

cancelled for inclement weather or Code Red days.

You must call 703-228-4771 to reserve your spot; space in the van is limited.

Schedule for March Walks:

March 6: LBJ Park, Arlington

March 13: Great Falls, MD

March 20: Mason District Park, VA

March 27: Dumbarton Oaks Park, DC

\$4/walk, Lee, 703-228-4771

NEXT LEE LUNCH BUNCH IS THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1-3PM

To find out where the group is going next, please call the center at 703-228-0555 and staff will provide the volunteer coordinator's contact information.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION Friday, March 13, 1-3pm



PIE WITH THE PRESIDENTS

After Pie with the Presidents, Lee's salute to our nation's presidents on February 11, Presidents' Day celebrations will never be quite the same. We had a wonderful turnout (28 people) and a great time was had by all.

Volunteer Eileen Bogdanoff, a retired history teacher and co-Treasurer of the Lee Advisory Committee, quizzed the large gathering on fun, little-known facts about the presidents. Everyone had a chance to have their photo taken with one of 12 presidents and table pictures were taken with everyone sporting a presidential mask. We also had a photo booth where people could pose with the president of their choice wearing some outlandish props. In keeping with the theme, the refreshments were cherry pie and ice cream, in honor of George Washington, who purportedly chopped down a cherry tree and could not tell a lie.

Special thanks to the Lee Advisory Committee members who planned the event and kept everything running smoothly: Eileen Bogdanoff; Jean Jackson; Bob Lamp; Debbie Everdale and Myrna Manolis. Great work everyone!



LEE BOOK CLUB

**March's Selection is *The Book Thief* by
Markus Zusak
Tuesday, March 3, 11am-12:15pm**

Reel Page Turners Movie Book Club



In March, we will read, discuss and watch *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Book discussion at Lee 55+ Center on **Wednesday, March 18 at 1:30pm**. Film screening at Westover Library on **Wednesday, March 25, 1 pm**. For more information,

please contact Peg Owen at mmowen@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-6327.

A limited number of copies of the book are available for check-out at Westover Library.

APRIL PREVIEW: Save the Date!

- ❖ **April 6, 1-2:15pm:** History of Fire Station No.8
- ❖ **April 7, 1:30-2:30pm:** Local News You Can Use: Future Development of the Lee Highway Corridor
- ❖ **April 14, 1:30-2:30pm:** Eggcellent!
- ❖ **April 15, noon-2:15pm:** Tax Day Social
- ❖ **April 22, 11:30am-12:30pm:** Lee Lunch & Learn: Arlington's Trees
- ❖ **April 28, 1:45-2:45pm:** Russia, Ukraine and the State of U.S Diplomacy
- ❖ **April 30, 1:30-3pm:** Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Story of Art, Love and Marriage

AGELESS GRACE

Ageless Grace is a fun wellness program of simple exercises focusing on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. The program is designed to make you laugh, keep you engaged and enjoy yourself.

**Wednesdays, March 18-May 20,
10:30-11:30am
\$50/10 sessions, #920031-75**

WESTOVER LIBRARY CORNER

1644 North McKinley Rd., Ste 3, Arlington, VA 22205

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia Gardening Series: Selecting Native Plants for Your Home Garden:

- **Monday, March 9, 2020, 7-8:30pm**

Learn how to choose beautiful native plants appropriate for the conditions of your yard. We'll explain what native plants are and their benefits for our local environment, how native plants differ from cultivars, and provide you with best practices for planting and seasonal management. Want to attract birds, butterflies and pollinators to your yard? We have tips and techniques that can help you create a biodiverse oasis. This class is offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. Free.

Advance registration requested at mgnv.org under Events.

Oddball Cinema at Westover Library:

- **Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 6:30-8:30pm**

Join your fellow unconventional cinephiles to check out an array of quirky, obscure & sometimes downright bizarre films! From Tarkovsky and Linklater to Scorsese and Kubrick, Oddball Cinema will screen a variety of genres and styles monthly at Westover Library. Join us on March 3rd for the 1983 version of Local Hero, starring Burt Lancaster.

Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity: A Pioneering FBI Agent Shares Her Story:

- **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7-8pm**

What was it like to be an early-generation female FBI Special Agent? In 1972, the FBI began accepting female applicants for special agent positions, which are federal law enforcement officials with the authority to carry weapons, investigate crimes, and make arrests. From the first days at Quantico to serving in three different field offices, retired agent Leslie Berens will highlight her experiences over her twenty-four-year career.

Did you know?

Westover Library has started offering weekly English Conversation classes. The classes offer a comfortable place for beginner to advanced, non-native speakers to practice speaking English in an informal setting. Wednesdays, 6pm. All classes are free, no registration required. Pass it on if you know someone who might benefit!