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## **MAKING THE MOST OF A NEW YEAR**

By William Nicoson

I've stopped making resolutions for coming years. I indulge myself by buying books instead. (Well, I suppose that counts as an implied resolution that I'll read the books I buy.)

I'm a lawyer who talks a lot about the invention and perpetual reinvention of a whole new economy in cyberspace, explaining why the old cyclical economic rules have broken down. So I bought a book about the future of law in regulating cyberspace. And I spend a lot of time writing. So I bought a book explaining the vast philosophical implications of grammar and vocabulary. So you think my taste in books is dry and dusty? Buy your own books!

I visited the Lake Anne Used Book Store where, as usual, my shelf-space forced me to limit my acquisitive instincts to three volumes. As I began to read the first of these, I realized I had begun to read it five or six years ago, but, before finishing, had lent it to someone whose name I've forgotten because it was never returned. What a joy to find again a dry and dusty friend from whom I had much to learn!

One of my year-end books is always a calendar for the coming year in which, after some research, I mark events to look forward to. (Well, I suppose that counts as an implied resolution that I'll attend the events I mark.) In the year-end mail came two invaluable research resources: Learning in Retirement Institute's winter catalog and Reston Community Center's program guide.

I discovered that through LRI in Lake Anne I'll be able to feast on such epicurean subjects as "Existentialism", taught by renowned philosophy professor Debra Bergoffen, "Nuclear Technology", taught by former CIA analyst Edward LaClare, "Empiricism and Quantification... between 1250 and 1600", taught by William Deary, formerly with the State Department's Office of the Historian, and, not least, "The Short Story", moderated by Lydia Macdonald, Reston's own literary maven.

You say some of this sounds dry and dusty? Not likely, based on past experience. If you don't trust me, sign up for LRI courses in wine making, computers, famous folks, the pyramids, herbs, or Feng Shui. Call 503-3384 for the catalog and be sure to register by January 10.

From the RCC program guide, I've noted one-day tours of Philadelphia's "Gardens of the New Millennium" and of Virginia Beach, a 4-day tour of historic Charleston, and a ski weekend at Camelback Mountain. The splendid Audubon Quartet will perform on the RCC stage in January and March, and, also in March, Canada's Quartetto Gelatto (Italian for "ice cream") brings an "eclectic range of musical tastes" (a photo shows, in addition to strings, an accordion and clarinet). You want more explosively compelling fare? Try Kaeja d'Dance for hyper-athletic "contact dance" or Coyaba!, with African rhythms of transporting "ecstasy", both in late March.

If you need a respite from reading books, RCC offers two free sessions on “Face Reading”. Learn the significance of the set of the jaw, shape of the teeth, and size of the nostrils. When accused of staring at a striking member of the opposite sex, you can truthfully reply: I’m reading you like a book. Nothing dry or dusty there.

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