News & Views

Volume 15 - Number 3

April 2011

April LLI Forum

Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 10 a.m. (Social Time at 9:30 a.m.)

The Honorable Deborah Hersman, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, Is a Major Pioneer and Leader in Transportation Safety and Security



Deborah Hersman

The National Transportation Safety Board is a small independent U.S. Agency with a vital mission. The NTSB investigates to find the probable cause of aviation accidents; certain types of highway crashes; ship and marine accidents; pipeline incidents; railroad accidents; and hazardous waste releases that occur while being transported.

When LLI's Moe Moser

requested an agency spokesperson, his invitation was answered by the Honorable Deborah Hersman, appointed Chairman of the NTSB by President Barack Obama in 2009. A member since 2004, she has been a pioneer of child passenger safety restraints, school bus improvements, and new laws and regulations regarding the transportation of hazardous waste and pipeline safety and security. Chairman Hersman is a strong advocate and major leader of several current initiatives and her LLI Forum presentation may possibly include an important policy statement. A truly hands-on leader, Chairman Hersman has been the NTSB member on the scene at 19 major transportation accidents, including the November 2004 and the June 2007 D.C. metro train collisions, the collision of a ship with the San Francisco Bay Bridge, and a school bus crash in Arlington County. Come to the LLI Forum to meet a remarkable leader, hear late-breaking news, and share your concerns about the issues of the day.

Please Note: *Parking is in the pay parking garage* (\$1/hour). *Parking in the B and C lots is by permit only.*

LLI's Annual Picnic

Thursday, June 2, 11:00 a.m. Ft. Hunt Park, Pavilion A

Directions and More

Directions:

From the Beltway: Driving the Beltway outer loop to Alexandria – take Exit 177A-B, Alexandria/Fort Belvoir (the exit immediately after Telegraph Road). Stay to your left on the exit ramp toward Old Town/Alexandria. At the traffic signal, go right onto Franklin Street. Follow Franklin Street to the next traffic signal at South Washington Street. Go right (south) onto South Washington Street, which becomes the George Washington Parkway, and follow the Parkway south for 5 miles; exit to the right at the sign marked "FORT HUNT ROAD/FORT HUNT PARK."

From Ft. Belvoir: Go North on Route 1 (Richmond Highway) and turn right onto Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway (across from the entrance to Woodlawn Plantation). When you get to Mt. Vernon, go around the circle onto the George Washington Parkway North. Approximately 3 miles from the circle follow the right exit to Ft. Hunt. At the second stop sign turn left toward the Park.

Parking: Look for Area A (Pavilion) parking lot (the first one you will see). There's parking for 150 cars and easy ground level pedestrian access from the parking

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Lunch Bunch

John Bogart bogartje@cox.net

Reservations for lunch after the April 5 Forum have been made at **Kilroy's Restaurant**, 5250 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, phone (703) 321-7733. The restaurant features American food which our group has enjoyed in the past.

Directions: Turn left onto Wakefield Chapel Rd., turn left onto Braddock Rd., turn into Ravensworth Shopping Center on your right. Restaurant is located in rear of shopping center.

Calendar of Events

April 2011

- **5** Forum
- 8 LLI Board Meeting
- 8 May Newsletter deadline
- 18 Newsletter mailing

May 2011

- **3** Forum
- 13 LLI Board Meeting
- 13 June Newsletter Deadline
- 23 Newsletter Mailing

June 2011

- 2 LLI Picnic
- **7** Forum
- 10 LLI Board Meeting
- **21-23** NJ Trip





IMPORTANT: Report Address Changes

Laura Charron, Administrator

To be assured of receiving important notices concerning classes and trips, **please remember** to notify the LLI office as soon as possible of a new e-mail address as well as a change in mailing address and/or telephone number. Notify the office by phone at 703-503-0600, or e-mail at *llinova@juno.com*.

LLI Board of Directors

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Underwood 11

* year term ends

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Members

Louise Blakely 703-451-2084 blakelylk@yahoo.com

Welcome, New Members! We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.

New Members

Betty Beaubien, 5310 Oldcastle Lane, Springfield, VA 22151, (703) 426-2803, (703) 216-6986 (C)

Updates

Carlos Lago, carlosmlago09@yahoo.com



Where Are They Now?

Occasionally we get notes from past scholarship winners to tell us how they are doing and how our scholarships have helped them with their goals. Here is one from Ginny Hong, a 2010 scholarship winner.

Hello Doris and LLI,

This is Eunjin Hong. I don't recall whether I thanked you for the pictures from the 2010 LLI scholarship award ceremony. I recently came upon them when I visited my nova account and took the opportunity to thank you for sending them. On that note, thank you once again for the occasion behind the photos — the \$1000 award! I was accepted to UVA, but I moved to Maryland with my husband and ended up attending UMD instead. I also moved from political science/international relations to public health. My ultimate goal is still to work in nonprofit, hopefully on a global scale; however, now I am also considering working in health education and possibly working with a community college like NOVA. My experience there was so rewarding in so many ways and led me to a path that I hadn't before imagined (but I am so enthralled with public health!). Thank you for your generous contribution to my and other students' pursuit of education. Hope this email finds you well!

Ginny





President's Message

is basically an educational institute, and our courses demonstrate that major focus. Having recently completed the fall session, we are in the midst of the winter-spring session and the Curriculum Committee is putting the final touches on the summer session. As I was preparing this message, I began to think of the fine courses we have had. The interesting thing is that all of the courses have a special following; some people just love certain ones, while other members look forward to a different selection.

Here are some of my interests:

Each semester we have fascinating presentations on American history and historical sites from the National Park Service that I enjoy. These presentations provide interesting details that somehow were never covered in school (or we didn't care then) about places we have been to or hope to visit. Speaking of interesting places, our travelogues bring back travel memories, introduce places we want to visit or describe locales and experiences we enjoy but will never get to. And, of course, the NOVA staff provide fascinating history presentations from around the world.

The Great Decisions course is one of the few that has pre-class reading material and lends itself to thought-provoking discussions on topics that are both current and relevant. These cover a wide range of issues, some I did not even know were a current problem but after the discussion, I found numerous references to the issues discussed.

I enjoy literature and a course on the Canterbury tales opened my eyes to a special period of historical literature. Earlier, we had courses on short stories and great books and we would like to find people to reintroduce them.

Today, many organizations stay away from anything of a religious nature. While I am active in my church, have deep spiritual beliefs, I am not of the faith of Rabbi Bruce Aft or John Rybicki, I enjoy participating in their courses on religious concepts. Along this line we offered a very informative course on cathedrals that introduces that aspect of religious heritage.

I enjoy science and math and from time to time we can find presentations in these areas. Dr. Bruce Coletti and the NOVA Psychology speakers have been great additions. The environmental classes are also of significant interest. I do my own financial

Community Outreach

Betty Lee Thatcher 703-354-8154 Carol Weber, caroljeanweber@hotmail.com

The next food collection will be at the April 5 Forum. Clint Hall will deliver this donation to Providence Presbyterian Church on Little River Turnpike that has a food closet which the Parishioners maintain. Over the past few years and, more specifically, the last six months, the demand has been greater than ever before and it is difficult to maintain the required amount of food in the closet.

The church provides food for up to fifteen needy families who reside in this vicinity. LLI has donated to this closet several times in the past; it is greatly appreciated and has made a difference in the support to these families. The current needs are: dried beans, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and cereals. Thank you, as always, for your generous donations.

LLI's Annual Picnic

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lot to the Pavilion. There is handicapped parking up close to the Pavilion.

General Information: Because we have the use of the large roof-covered Pavilion, the picnic will be held rain or shine, barring a hurricane. If the weather forecast is for hot and humid conditions, consider bringing insect repellent, but we have found in past years that there is generally a good breeze which helps keep the temperature down, especially in the pavilion. Also, we will be eating at park picnic tables with bench seats; for your comfort, you may wish to bring your own folding chairs.

Registration form is included in this newsletter and will be available at the April Forum.

management and presentations by Parks, Campbell, Trenchard, and others have been a great help.

Poetry is not my special interest, but I had a great time at the Valentine party sponsored by the poetry class. This year's party was one of the best-attended ever. Thanks for this wonderful, annual event.

LLI offers many types of classes. What are your favorites?

Paul Hopler

Special Interest Groups



LLI Arts & Smarts

Donna Trogler, 703-751-8932, DTrogler@aol.com

Friday, March 25,

10:30: "Echoes of the Past: The Buddhist Cave Temples of Xiangangshan".

Place: Sackler Art Gallery.

These Buddhist Cave Temples, carved into the mountains of northern China, were the crowning cultural achievement of the Northern Qi dynasty (550-77 CE). The caves were severely damaged in the 20th century when sculptures within were removed and sold on the international art market. Through new research and technology and collaboration with Chinese art historians and archaeologists, these caves may be enjoyed as in their original state. Innovative digital components will provide an unprecedented opportunity to experience ancient sculptural masterpieces in their original historical, religious and social contexts. For more information, please contact Donna Trogler.

Thursday, April 28: "Gauguin: Maker of Myth" — Sackler Art Gallery

Paul Gauguin's sumptuous colorful images of Brittany and the South Sea Islands will be among the more than one hundred paintings. The exhibit includes some of the most appealing paintings in modern art and will be the first showing of Gauguin's art in the US in 20 years. For more information, please contact Donna Trogler.



LLI Bridge Group

Bob or Merry Huley 703-534-4819 or 703-489-9045, roberthuley@cox.net

March Play Dates — Wednesday, April 13, and Wednesday, April 27

Location: Mason District Governmental Center.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a bag lunch.

You do not need a partner because we rotate partners so you will play with everyone. We are always looking for new players, and all levels of players are welcome in this very friendly game. Please call or email Bob Huley if you would like to attend (or for more information) so that we can provide sufficient card tables.

Recent Results — On February 23, the top four players were Nelva Berend, Raymond Burmester, Lynda Brittain and tied for fourth, Janet Goodrich and Betty Yeary. Congratulations to all.



LLI Community Theater

Norma Hughes, 703-960-6279, nahhome@verizon.net

Contact Norma Hughes if you wish to be included on the list of members for the Theater Group or if you would like to "host" one of the plays listed or for one not listed. Members will receive notification of the chosen play, the date, and other details.



LLI Current Events Group

Marion Jacknow, 703-698-8702, mjacknow@aol.com

The Current Events Group meets monthly for continued interesting and educational discussions. Topics reflect the current social, political and worldly events surrounding the time of the meeting. Please join us to share your ideas and/or to learn more about current events — whatever is your pleasure.

Date/Time: Friday, April 1, 10:00 — 11:30 a.m.

Place: Mason District Governmental Center, Small Conference Room, 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale. For more information, contact Marion Jacknow.



LLI Favorite Books Club

Connie Fullerton, 703-764-3779, constance.fullerton@gmail.com

Date/Time: Thursday, April 21, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Place: King's Park Library (please note change of meeting place)

This month we'll discuss Kirstin Downey's *The Woman Behind the New Deal, the Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins*. FDR selected Frances Perkins as Secretary of Labor in 1933. A young activist, she developed political alliances as she matured. Talk about glass ceilings!! Ms. Perkins pursued new concepts and progressive causes in her decisive work that included Social Security, unemployment benefits and the 40-hour week. Her incredible successes were accomplished in spite of personal challenges.

Ms. Downey spoke at our March LLI Forum. Do come join our discussion after you have read her well-documented story of the amazing Ms Perkins.



LLI French Conversation Group

Sally Reynolds, 703-352-7494, saldonreyn@aol.com

The French Group will meet **Tuesday, April 19,** 10:00 a.m. in the Small Conference Room at the Mason District Governmental Center. Please bring your copy of

Barron's *French at a Glance*. LLI members interested in joining should contact Sally Reynolds.



LLI Gourmands

Mary Underwood, 703-329-8391, maryunderwood29@verizon.net

The March Gourmand Event is scheduled for **Thursday**, **March**

24, 12 noon, at Ristorante Bonaroti, 428 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. The restaurant serves classic Italian cuisine. Please contact Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser (703-280-2542 or email at emosser@cox.net) by March 21 if you wish to attend.

Betty Pogerman and Giovanna Prestigiacomo have planned the April event for **Thursday**, **April 14**, at 11:30 a.m. at Ozzie's Italian Restaurant, 11880 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax, in Fairfax Corner. The phone number is 571-321-8000. The restaurant features varied Italian food and salads and panini sandwiches that average \$10.00 - \$15.00. If you plan to attend, call or email Betty Pogermon, at bettymusic@verizon.net or 703-323-7634, or Giovanna Prestigiacomo, gprestig@cox.net.

Deanna DeMember has scheduled the May Gourmand event at Argia's Italian Restaurant, 124 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, for **Thursday**, **May 12**, 11:30 a.m. Please contact Deanna at *ddemember@aol.com* or 703-866-0907 if you plan to attend.

LLI Wine Tasting Subgroup — Anne Austin, 703-569-5994, abbaustin@aol.com

This group meets quarterly. Future dates will be announced in the newsletter or at a Forum. Contact Anne Austin if you wish to be included on the mailing list.

Deadline for the May newsletter is April 8, 2011.



LLI Nimble Fingers

Bev Portman 703-560-6740, firse@juno.com

The next Nimble Fingers meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday**,

April 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Small Conference Room of the Mason District Governmental Center. Bring a small needlecraft project of any type to work on. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Bev Portman.



LLI Walkabouts

Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, cell phone: 1-978-505-9506, merry.macke@verizon.net

April 1: No fooling. Walk around Fairview Professional Park. I-495 to Rte. 50 going east. Take the first right

into Fairview Park. Park at Marriot Hotel on left and meet at entrance. Walkers may decide to have lunch at the Marriot after the walk.

April 15: Will be on the CCT (Map 8 of 10), Hunter Mill Rd. Take I-66 to Rte.123N; the 2nd left is Hunter Mill Rd. (674). Hunter Station Rd. (677) is to the left and at this intersection there is a parking lot. We will walk the W&OD Trail south and left into Tamarack Park. We will be walking toward Dulles Airport.

For more information contact Merry Macke.

Upcoming Forums

On **Tuesday, May 3**, the Forum will focus on Diabetes, the third-leading disease killer, which has now become a growing national and global health crisis. Our speaker, Kathy Gold, is with the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation.

Space Available in the Following Class

11W39P, Make a Williamsburg Basket, meeting April 8, 15, and 22 (note change in dates) from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Woodlands in Fairfax, has an opening for one student. The materials fee is \$24.00 payable to Louise Sousk. If interested, please contact the coordinator Diane Purdy At 703-449-0615 or *reddianne@aol.com* and the administrator Laura Charron at 703-503-0600 or *lauragcharron@aol.com*.

Study Travel – 2012 Travels

At the Study travel March 1 meeting, the group decided to concentrate on Spain/Portugal; Adriatic/Baltic region; and the National Parks of the northwest. The final destination for 2012 will be decided at the meeting following the April 5 Forum. The Travel agency and program will also be determined. If you are interested in traveling with LLI friends on our next adventure, please attend the meeting.

Save the Dates!

A trip to Princeton and Trenton, New Jersey, is being planned for June 21-23 to see many of the historic, educational, and art venues there. The three-day/two-night trip featuring walking tours of Princeton University (including its beautiful gothic chapel with its stained glass windows and the Princeton University Art Gallery) and of the historic town of Princeton (including Einstein's home, the first governor's mansion, Morven, on the first day. The second day, we will visit the historic Princeton Battlefield and the Clarke House, which sits on the battlefield as well as tour the current Governor's Mansion, Drumthwacket. The third day, in Trenton, includes a visit to the incredible Grounds for Sculpture (look it up on Google — it is worth the price of the trip!) and a tour of the New Jersey State Capitol Building and of the historic Revolutionary War Barracks before heading home.

Plans are being finalized, so stay tuned for the complete details and price. Sign up will begin soon. Save the dates!

Membership Renewal Reminder

The mailing label on each newsletter includes your membership renewal date. You must renew and be a member in good standing in order to register for courses and to participate in LLI's many other activities. Complete the membership form (last page in the current course catalog), check "renewal," indicate any new information, and mail it to the LLI office with a check in the amount of \$110 for each person wishing to continue membership with LLI.

It is important to include the form with your check, for ease in crediting your membership renewal in our database.

Calling All Volunteers!!!



Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, merry.macke@verizon.ne

The Curriculum
Committee has the
following openings:
teacher recruiters,
course instructors, and
course coordinators
(room preparation
according to the needs
of the instructor).
Contact Mary

Underwood at maryunderwood29@verizon.net.

Do you have a special interest or hobby that you think others might share? Would you like to consider starting a Special Interest Group focused on that activity? Contact Peter Schwarzkopf at pschwarzkopf@verizon.net.

Do you have questions about some of the tasks that volunteers undertake in LLI? Do you have an idea for a volunteer activity? Would you like to volunteer but aren't sure if you have what it takes? Contact Merry Macke at merry.macke@verizon.net.

LLI needs your help. Please evaluate the opportunities listed above and contribute your time and talent by choosing one and join the fun! Contact the designated person for more information.

Volunteer Coordinator: Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, *merry.macke@verizon.net*

Publicity: Liddell McLeod, 703-698-8366, *liddell_mcl@cox.net*

Forum Greeter Coordinator: Colletta Hammond, 703-866-6159, *mchammondh@aol.com*

Speaker Forum Committee: Joseph Pincus, 703-569-0973, *joseph@pincus.org*

Humor Corner

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."

— Virginia Woolf

From the LLI Scrapbook



At the March Forum, LLI Vice-President Bob Huley thanks author Kristin Downey for her informative and entertaining presentation on Frances Perkins.



Winter Break:

Valentines and Poetry

The Poetry Group once again offered its love letter to fellow LLI members in the form of its annual Valentine's Open House. Record numbers (60 people) participated in the fun on February 11, the fifth successful party since the first in 2005. (Two were canceled by snow.)

The Little River United Church of Christ's Social Hall provided the perfect setting; a lovely view of the beautiful day outside that was enhanced by balloons, flowers, candlelight and tasty treats provided by member of the Poetry Group. It was a warm occasion for renewing friendships and making new friends while sharing favorite

love poems and romantic music. Richard Risk, leader of the group since 2001, was master of ceremonies and master wit. To the delight of everyone present, members from the Poetry Group and other attendees displayed exceptional talents in reading or reciting favorite poems. Ferne Beyer and piano accompanist, Marie Koneczny, performed "My Funny Valentine," and engaged everyone in sing-alongs of old favorites.

Thanks to all in the Poetry Group who worked hard to give us a delightful, warm break from the long, cold winter!



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