News & Views

Volume 16 - Number 2

February 2012

February LLI Forum

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at 10 a.m. (Social Time at 9:30 a.m.)

The Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy: A Comprehensive Look at Police Operations in Our Community

In 2009, the Citizens Police Academy of Fairfax County was voted the best in the nation in providing an extensive education to its citizens. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a police officer in Fairfax County? What are the requirements for weapons and driver training? How does the 911 call center operate? How do police officers handle crime-scene investigations? Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the Bomb Disposal Squad, the SWAT teams, and police helicopter operations by attending the Citizens Police Academy lecture.

You will also learn how our county handles traffic management, animal control, efforts to reduce drunk driving, gang activity, control of illegal drugs, and works to build neighborhood rapport and solve problems.

Perhaps some of you will be interested in applying to the Citizens Police Academy. To earn an opportunity to serve as a volunteer with the police department, participants in the Citizens Police Academy are expected to attend nine 3½-hour evening sessions and a Saturday graduation.

Academy Director Tracey Ryan, her team of instructors, and citizen graduates of the program describe the program and respond to your questions.

Please Note: Parking is in parking garage (\$1/hour). Parking in B and C lots is by permit only. If no garage parking slots are available, a \$6 daily permit for the B lot is available at the office to the right just inside the entry gate.

LLI Forum Forward: Our March Forum will focus on the history of aviation and the development of the National Air and Space Museum, located in Washington, DC and at the Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles Airport.

Great Decisions: Course 12W28P

Weekly, Thursday Afternoons / 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

February 9 to March 29 St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Join us for a discussion with noted experts in their fields of some of the major current foreign policy issues. We view a 30-minute DVD of TV interviews with noted government or think-tank officials, then discuss the issues for one hour, based on excellent 10-page articles in a booklet prepared by experts retained by the Foreign Policy Association in New York. There are eight weekly sessions, covering the following weekly topics: Middle East Realignment; Promoting Democracy; Mexico; Cybersecurity; Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; State of the Oceans; Indonesia; and Energy Geopolitics.

There is still room and plenty of time to register. The cost is \$20 to cover the price of the Foreign Policy Association Booklets and the DVD. Checks should be made out to LLI/NOVA.

Lunch Bunch

John Bogart bogartje@cox.net

Reservations for lunch after the February 1 Forum have been made at **Kilroy's Restaurant**, 5250-A Port Royal Rd., Springfield. This popular restaurant features American-style food at moderate prices and is located in the Ravensworth Shopping Center. See you there.

Directions from NOVA: Take Wakefield Chapel Rd. to Braddock Rd. Left on Braddock to Port Royal Rd., then right on Port Royal. The restaurant is located in the rear of the shopping center.

Calendar of Events

February 2012

- 1 Forum
- 10 March newsletter deadline
- 10 LLI Board Meeting
- 20 March newsletter mailing

March 2012

- 9 LLI Board Meeting
- **9** April newsletter deadline
- 13 Forum
- **19** April newsletter mailing

April 2012

- 4 Forum
- 5 Capitol Hill day trip
- 6 May newsletter deadline
- 13 LLI Board Meeting
- 16 May newsletter mailing



IMPORTANT: Report Address/Email/Phone Number 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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* year term ends

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Mailing Coordinators: Bob and Merry Huley

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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

Sharon Connelly, 7213 Hansford Ct., Springfield, VA 22151, (703) 914-2896, rentplus@yahoo.com

Joel Geisner, 700 N. Latham St., Alexandria, VA 22304, (703) 751-3313, *jageisner@yahoo.com*

Marie, Pinho, 6027 Ticonderoga Ct., Burke, VA 22015, (703) 569-6080, mdpinho@verizon.net

Updates

Michael Stephens, sstep23@cox.net Sandra Stephens, sstep23@cox.net Anne Strahan, annestra13@gmail.com Beatrice Taylor, (703) 570-5787



Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

If the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) cancel school for the day due to inclement weather or other emergency, all LLI classes, Forums, and other activities, except trips, are cancelled regardless of class location. LLI morning classes are cancelled if the FCPS announces a 2-hour delay in class openings; LLI afternoon classes are cancelled if the FCPS announces early dismissal. Trips are cancelled at the discretion of the trip leader.

Volunteer Opportunities

LLI needs your help. Please consider contributing your time and talent by assisting in one of the areas listed below. Contact the designated person for more information.

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

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

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

President's Message

Ithough you are receiving this newsletter in late January, in fact, I am preparing it on New Year's Day. As I scan the Internet, newspapers, magazines, etc., I see many lists of accomplishments. So I began to think about what we have done well in the last year or so. Many activities with which we can be pleased seem to succeed once we get the necessary volunteers in place. These include our community outreach food collection, the lunch bunch, our various social events (holiday party, picnic, and Valentine's poetry event), forums, publicity, website update and maintenance, audit, and scholarship donations and awards. The participation and contributions of volunteers is key to our success.

There are some situations that previously were troublesome that we have successfully worked to improve. The top seven are listed in no particular order.

- 1. We have revamped the financial structure to better utilize the continually increasing surplus fund; to improve the payment structure of our one employee, the Office Administrator; and to position the organization on a sound budgetary footing.
- 2. The travel program has undergone some significant leadership changes and was caught up in the funding restructuring, but has emerged stronger and better than ever.
- 3. The curriculum is a mainstay of our organization and its committee has adjusted to new leadership, the difficulty of locating an editor, and the problems associated with finding the best publisher and printer. It has responded well, as reflected in the outpouring of membership support for our current courses. The committee is working on a program to develop class coordinators, in which all members should be willing to participate.
- 4. The current newsletter leadership has profited from earlier editors' efforts and the resulting newsletter remains a valuable resource that is a comprehensive source of information.
- 5. We have established a system of evaluating our progress in the courses, as well as other aspects of the organization. We have improved our history and record-keeping process and improved our administrative procedures.
- 6. The Special Interest Groups continue to be member-driven and to successfully meet the needs of the members.
- 7. Our board consists of strong-minded individuals who have diverse opinions and are not afraid to express them for the benefit of LLI. Although possible disruption and unpleasantness could have occurred during problem resolution, the Board has instead resolved issues as a strong cohesive unit.

We can all take pride in our 2011 accomplishments and look forward to an even more successful 2012.

Paul Hopler

Community Outreach

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

Food for Others is designated to receive the LLI food donations collected at the February Forum. As a regional food distribution organization, Food for Others distributes food throughout Northern Virginia in three ways: at their warehouse, emergency food is provided to families and individuals referred by social services organizations; every weeknight, food is distributed at a variety of sites in high poverty neighborhoods in Arlington, Falls Church and Fairfax; and throughout the year, bulk food distributions are provided to many community-based organizations, including churches, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and day care and community centers. While all donations are gratefully accepted, current needs include canned fruit, canned chili, canned meats other than tuna, jelly/jams, 1- or 2-lb. bags of dried beans or rice, boxed macaroni and cheese, and crackers. Bev Portman will deliver the LLI donations.

LLI Picnic Tuesday, June 19th

If you would like to serve on the picnic planning team, just sign up at the Volunteer table at the Forum, or contact Bonnie Hopler at 703-978-9381 or *pbhopler@cox.net*. This is a great first volunteer activity for our newer members, as well as for any longer-term members seeking a volunteer opportunity.



Special Interest Groups



LLI Arts & Smarts

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

No events are planned for

February.



LLI Bridge Group

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

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Location: Mason District Governmental Center

February Play Dates: Thursday, February 2, and

Wednesday, February 15

March Play Dates: Thursday, March 1, and Thursday, March 15. (Note the change in day of the week.)

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. Pleas 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: The top four players for the last half of 2011 were: Jack Acey, Nelva Berend, Mary Underwood, and Bob Huley. The top four players at the game on January 5 were: Mary Underwood, George Chalou, Nelva Berend, and Jessica Burmester. Congratulations to all.



LLI Community Theater

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

All who have signed up for the Community Theater Group should

check their email for a forthcoming listing of theater offerings for the current season. Members will have an opportunity to select and host a theater date and possible after-theater socializing at a nearby restaurant. If you are interested in joining the group, send your name and email address to Norma Hughes at *nahhome@verizon.net*.

Deadline for the March newsletter is Friday, February 10, 2012.



LLI Current Events Group

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

Date/Time: Friday, February 3,

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental Center

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 learn more about current events – whatever is your pleasure. For more information, please email or call Marian Jacknow.



LLI Favorite Books Club

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

Date/Time: Thursday, February 16, 11:30 – 1p.m.

Location: Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Rd (in back of King's Park Library)

In February, the book club will discuss *Martha Washington: an American Life* by Patricia Brady. Forget the frumpy, white-haired, domestic Martha! In this biography we find the vivacious, attractive young widow, born into the 18th century world of wealthy Virginian planters, as she captivates young George Washington. Crucial to her husband's well-being, Martha was his trusted confidante during the tumultuous revolutionary and presidential years. Ms Brady depicts both the daily life and the political intrigue of 18th century America.



Financial Discussion Group

Doug Johnson, 703-628-3115 dejlli@yahoo.com

Date/Time: Friday, March

9, 1:30 p.m.

Location: Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Rd (in back of King's Park Library)

The Financial Discussion Group is off to a good start but there will be no meeting in February.



LLI French Conversation Group

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

Date/Time: Tuesday, February

21, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Location: Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental

Center In February, we will meet, as usual, on the third Tuesday. Our professor, Al Brothers, will continue with *French in Action*. LLI members wishing to join should contact Sally Reynolds.



LLI Gourmands

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

The February Gourmand lunch, arranged by Nelva Berend, will be

at Texas de Brazil at noon on **Friday**, **February 3**. This is a Brazilian Churrascaria all-you-can-eat restaurant that has a cold bar and hot dishes, including fried bananas and black beans. It is located in Fair Oaks Mall near the Sears entrance (11750 Fair Oaks Mall); the phone number is 703-352-4111; the web address is www.texasdebrazil.com. Please respond to Nelva by January 31 at nelva@berendfamily.com if you wish to attend.

If you are interested in planning a Gourmand event sometime in 2012, please contact Mary Underwood. There are no requirements or minimums; the planner may do whatever he or she wishes.



LLI Nimble Fingers

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

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 8, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Location: Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental Center

This group meets monthly to enjoy and share all types of needlecrafts. Please bring a small project of any type to work on. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Bev Portman.



Trip Committee News

The Nation takes Root on Capitol Hill: This trip is full and a wait list has been created.



LLI Photography Group

Buck Myers, 703-532-3726 hbm@hbmphoto.com

Date/Time: Friday, February **17**, 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Place: Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Rd, (on right hand side of King's Park library building)

Members have a wide range of photographic abilities and interests and share a common desire to hone existing skills or learn new ones. Meetings center on a specific topic, area of interest or theme decided by the group. Meetings are the third Friday of each month and new members are always welcome. For further information, contact Buck Myers.



LLI Walkabouts

Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, cell phone: 978-505-9506

merry.macke@verizon.net

Date/Time: First and third Friday at

noon

January 20: Meet at Americana Park, on the west side of Little River Turnpike and I-495 (Beltway). Coming from NOVA, on the top of the hill just before I-495, turn right onto Pineridge Dr. and then an immediate left onto the service road which will run into Accotink Parkway; follow the road to a baseball diamond and park there. Coming from east of I-495, pass over the Beltway on Little River Turnpike; at the top of the hill, turn left onto Pineridge Dr. We will walk south on the CCT path.

February 3: Walk around Lake Braddock by Lake Braddock High School (Uncle Bert and Betty give us permission). Take Burke Lake Road off Braddock Rd. going south. Pass by the high school; take a right on Lake Braddock Road. Follow the road around to Wallingford Drive, turn right and park on that street. We'll meet on the corner of Lake Braddock/Wallington Drive.

February 17: Fairview Park. (Hopefully protected from the wind). I-495 to Rte. 50 east (to the right) then exit Rte. 50 at the Fairview Park exit. Continue going right into the professional complex and park at the Marriott Hotel.

If the temperature is below freezing or the roads are icy, the walk will be cancelled. Contact Merry Mack for any questions. Happy New Year!





Meet Your Committees

This month we feature another of the many committees that are vital to LLI's operations. The purpose of this feature is to help members understand and appreciate the important role these committees play, briefly outline the committee's history and/or duties, introduce the committee members, and include other information that the committee may wish to provide to LLI members..

Meet the Scholarship Committee

The LLI scholarship program was initiated in 1999 by our founding President, Knox Singleton, and the second President, Alan Mayer, as an important way for LLI to thank the Annandale campus of the college for the help it provides in terms of office space, classroom space, and lectures from faculty. The student scholarship also gives LLI the opportunity to extend our mission of life-long learning by helping a few promising students further their education and their careers.

Initially, a single leadership scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to a student who demonstrated leadership, both on campus and in the community. Later an academic, needs-based scholarship was added. Over the years, the program has expanded due to the large number of deserving students and the generous contributions you, our members, make each year to the scholarship fund. In fact, in 2011 we were able to award nine scholarships totaling \$10,000.

The most prestigious scholarship, the \$2,000 leadership scholarship, was renamed the Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship to honor the memory of our founder. A plaque on the wall outside the Provost's office in the CG building lists the names of the winners of this prestigious scholarship.

The LLI Scholarship Committee has the important tasks of soliciting donations from members and choosing the scholarship recipients from the many deserving applicants. The Committee currently consists of six LLI members: Doris Balinsky (chair), Marie Conway, Stan Lichtman, Ed McKnight, Marianne Moerman, and Lorri Privitera.

Representatives from the NOVA Annandale campus, Bruce Mann (Dean of Liberal Arts), and Mark Mannheimer (Office of Student Services), are actively involved in advertising the scholarships and providing administrative support.

The October Forum is the official public "kickoff" for the scholarship program, and we try to have one or two former winners speak to our members on the effect the scholarship has had on their pursuits. Scholarship applications are available to students in early January and are advertised throughout the Annandale campus. In addition, Dr. Mann and Mr. Mannheimer send e-mails to all faculty and students at the beginning of January, giving students adequate time to prepare applications, which are due after Spring break, and for faculty to advise their best students to apply. The number of applications has increased each year as the scholarships became better known and as the economic situation became more difficult.

The annual winners are presented to our members each year at the June Forum. This is an opportunity for you to meet these impressive young people.

If you are interested in becoming part of this committee, we would be delighted to have you. The committee's tasks involve mailing solicitation and thank you letters, evaluating student applications, interviewing the finalists, and selecting the winners. Please contact any committee member for further information.

As of mid-January, we had collected \$9,160 towards the 2012 scholarship awards, but are happy and grateful to receive additional donations at any time.

2011 Scholarship Winner

One of our 2011 scholarship winners, Kyle Stevenson, has written to tell us of his progress at American University and to tell us again how grateful he is for the scholarship. You may remember that Kyle, who grew up in the foster care system and was working full-time when he received our scholarship, is an great example of a young man with great promise. Here is his letter:

Hello,

I just wanted to send an email out to you and provide an update on how things went during my first semester at American University! It was amazing to say the least! I really enjoyed meeting people from all over the country that go to my school and getting to know a completely different student body. I'm really excited for next semester because I

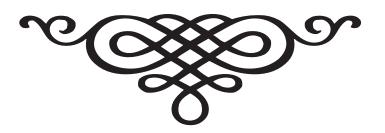
want to become more involved in student groups since I'm now out of the transition phase and can begin get into the swing of things more easily. Overall, I had a blast living in D.C. where I was always close to the center of political action (I'm a Political Science major).

So far, I have not received all of my grades for the semester. For the time being, I did get two final grades out of the five classes I took. In the two classes where grading is all finished up, I earned A-'s, hoping the rest are straight A's across the board. Keeping my fingers crossed!

I really appreciate the generosity of the Lifetime Learning Institute for everything you all have collectively been able to provide for me and my fellow recipients this year. I could not have made my dream of obtaining a higher education a reality without the help and support of fantastic organizations such as yours, and for that I will always be grateful. Thank you so much a thousand times over and I hope you and all of the members of LLI have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Best Wishes, Kyle Stevenson





From the LLI Scrapbook

From the January Forum



LLI President Paul Hopler thanks Dr. David Applegate for his presentation on Natural Disasters.

At Freer Gallery



LLI members at Freer Gallery, Washington, D.C.



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