

**LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE/NOVA
DECEMBER UPDATE 2011**

Forum: Ernst Cultural Center, NVCC, Annandale. The latest scientific research on Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Tsunamis and Floods is the Forum topic on **Wednesday, January 11**, at 10:00 a.m. Our speaker is Dr. David Applegate, the associate director for natural hazards at the United States Geological Survey. Dr. Applegate coordinates the bureau's long-term planning and disaster response. *Please note the date change to Wednesday this month.*

Lunch Bunch: No December lunch group scheduled. The Holiday lunch is our replacement.

Community Outreach Food Program: Food collection will resume at the January 2012 Forum when the food pantry of Providence Presbyterian Church will be the recipient our donations. Look for details in the January newsletter. The need continues to be great. Thank you.

Trip Committee News: This is a reminder that the **December 12** Holiday trip to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond is set to go. The trip is filled and a waiting list has been established.

Plans for next year include an **April 5** docent-led tour of Congressional Cemetery and visits to the Navy Museum, Eastern Market, Lincoln Park and more. Save the date!

Plans are also underway for a trip to the Shenandoah Valley on **June 11** through **June 13**. We will visit Appomattox Court House, Jefferson's Poplar Forest, and the D-Day Memorial in Bedford; and have a two night stay at Natural Bridge, with visits to important sites at Lexington and Staunton.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Arts & Smarts: December 5, Freer Art Gallery. This museum visit is complementary to the LLI class, *Art at the Freer and Sackler Galleries*; class attendance is not a prerequisite. The focus will be on Asian ceramics; signs and symbols particular to Asian religion and culture; inscription/writing as artistic design and its meaning and purpose. The tour will include Chinese ceramics of the Song Dynasty and the newly re-opened Korean Gallery. For further information, please contact Doris Balinsky, 703-941-1794 or dorbal123@gmail.com or Donna Trogler, 703-751-8932 or dtrogler@aol.com.

Bridge Group: In December, we will play on **Wednesday, December 7**, and **Wednesday, December 14**. In January, we will play on **Thursday, January 5**, and **Wednesday, January 25**. Location: Mason District Government 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 (703-534-4819), or email me (roberthuley@cox.net), if you would like to attend (or for more information) so that we can provide sufficient card tables.

Current Events: will meet **Friday, December 2**, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, Small Conference Room. Contact Marion Jacknow, 703-698-8702 or mjacknow@aol.com for further information.

Community Theater: 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 nah.home@verizon.net.

Favorite Books Club: will not meet in December. The book to be discussed in January will be Edith Wharton's classic *The Custom of the Country*.

French Conversation Group: will not meet in December.

Gourmands: The December Gourmand event is at **noon, December 15**, at Nostos Restaurant, 8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna; phone (703-760-0690); website-www.nostosrestaurant.com. Please RSVP to Bev Portman by December 2 at 703-560-6740 or firse@juno.com.

Nimble Fingers: meets **Wednesday, December 14**, 10:00 a.m. - noon, in the Small Conference Room of the Mason District Governmental Center. Contact Bev Portman if you have any questions

Photography: meets **Friday, November 18** and **Friday, December 16**, 10:00 a.m. – noon, at Braddock District Governmental Center (King's Park Library). Contact: Buck Myers, 703-532-3726 or hbm@hbmphoto.com for further information

Walkabouts: **December 2** - noon at Accotink Park; meet at the parking lot closest to the Lake. We will be circling the lake; members can choose which way. Take Backlick Rd. to Highland going west, and look for signs for the park entrance after the stop sign at Hanover. Continue on Highland, take a left, and then take a right at the first road entering the woods. Follow the road to the end past the dam.

December 16 - Again, at Lake Accotink, but this time, we will be walking the CCT towards Old Keene Mill Rd. At the end of the walk, you are invited for hot chocolate at Merry's house nearby. See above directions. Contact Merry Macke, 703-451-3248 or merry.macke@verizon.net for further information.

Who Gives A Drachma? The initial meeting of the **Financial Discussion Group** will be on **Friday, December 9**, at 10 am at the James Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Rd. (between Rtes. 29 & 50). We will decide on the format, time and frequency of meetings and topics of interest for discussion. If interested, contact Doug Johnson: 703-628-3115 or DEJLLI@yahoo.com

Membership: Changes/corrections regarding membership information will be provided in the January 2012 newsletter.

Finally: *Don't forget toys for the children! If you choose to participate, bring a new, non-gift wrapped toy to the Holiday Luncheon, **December 6**, for the children at Bethany House of Northern Virginia.*