



Active Adults
Inspired Learning
Travel & Friendship

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News & Views

April 2019

April LLI Forum

Ernst Cultural Center (CE)

NOVA Annandale Campus

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 10 a.m.

(Arts & Crafts Exhibit 9 to 10 a.m.)



THE FOUNDING OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION:

Dr. James Zimbelman

The founding of the Smithsonian Institution is a fascinating tale full of scientific research, personalities, family intrigue and mystery. What connections did the British scientist James Smithson have with the United States, a place he had never visited? Could Congress even accept this surprise grant and, if so, what should be done with it?

Our speaker is a planetary geologist, Dr. James Zimbelman, who has served as chair of the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum. He was chairman of the Mars Surveyor Instrument Review Panel, has written more than 80 articles in scientific journals, and his planetary maps have been published by the U.S. Geological Survey.

His research interests include topical geologic mapping of Mars and Venus; remote sensing of the terrestrial planets at visual, infrared, and radar wavelengths; lava flows on the planets; and a comparison of sand dunes on Earth and Mars.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jim also studied the life and scientific undertakings of James Smithson, a British chemist and mineralogist who was born in France and died in Italy.

According to the Smithsonian Institution archives, James Smithson wrote a draft of his Last Will and Testament in 1826 in London, then died three years later in Genoa, Italy, and was buried in a British cemetery there.



The will left his estate to his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, but stated that if his nephew died without an heir, the money would go "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge"

After his nephew died without an heir, Smithson's estate did come to the United States. In 1903, inventor Alexander Graham Bell, then a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, went to Italy to supervise bringing Smithson's remains to the United States. Smithson's coffin was met by

the U.S. Marine Band, and he was reinterred in the Smithsonian Castle.

Zimbelman's lecture about the roots and founding of the Smithsonian is not to be missed.

---- Joseph Pincus



ARTS and CRAFTS EXHIBIT

Plan on arriving at the April 3 Forum around 9 a.m. so you have time to check out the annual Arts and Crafts Exhibit. The exhibit will be held from 9 to 10 in the classrooms beside the forum room.



Community Outreach April Forum

The food collection at the LLI Forum of April 3 will benefit Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church food pantry in Arlington, sponsored by Donna Davis. The OLQP pantry began in the 1980s. About 70 volunteers provide bags of groceries to more than 200 families each week.

Please bring the following items to help fill the grocery bags: rice, beans, spaghetti, sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, and cereal. Bags of Maseca corn flour (Hispanic item) and 48-oz. bottles of cooking oil also are desired.

The NOVA food pantry, which we supported in February, was delighted with your contributions. In March LLI collected 220 lbs. of food, including

some overflow donated to us from another pantry, for Food for Others.



Join the 2019 Green Festival!

Registration has begun for the 2019 Green Festival to be held on the NOVA Annandale campus Thursday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Under the theme "Biodiversity and Urbanization," the festival will focus on the many challenges of maintaining biodiversity in an urban environment and help participants recognize ways that each of them can conserve resources, promote change, and make a difference as individuals.

The festival will include the screening of the environmental film "The Last Stand," a keynote presentation by Dr. Joan Maloof, founder and executive director of the Old Growth Forest Network; vendors, and informational booths of local, regional, and national environmental organizations. Also included are lunch for pre-registered attendees, giveaways, door prizes (enter to win a bicycle!), and more.

Events will be held in the CE Building in the atrium, theater, gym, and Forum space.

Follow this link to register: <https://www.nvcc.edu/green-festival/2019/index.html>. The festival is free and open to the public, with open parking in the B lots and free parking in the garage.

For more information, contact Rob Johnson, NOVA Sustainability Officer, at rojohanson@nvcc.edu, or Cheryl Robinette, Annandale Campus Renovations Coordinator, at crobinette@nvcc.edu.

--- Gina Trapp



President's Message

"We have everything we need to be happy right between our ears"... Jane Jarvis

Of course, LLI cannot make its members happy, but I am pleased to note some of the many opportunities our members/volunteers are exploring and developing.

- Using last September's survey, Board Member Patti Volz followed up on a member's write-in suggestion to start two new Special Interest Groups (SIGs): 1) Tabletop Games and 2) Mystery Book Club. Enough members expressed interest for us to proceed toward the likely development of these two SIGs; however, Patti still would like to hear from you if you want more information and/or to join. Anyone who has already expressed interest will receive an email shortly from Patti on the "next steps." You can contact her at pattivolz@verizon.net

- LLI cannot add more time to your day, but our new website offers another resource so we can spend more time on matters that interest us most. By shifting to online class registration for summer classes, we slashed the lead time previously associated with "catalog production to class registration" by five weeks. Further, we are discussing the possibility of pop-up classes when unexpectedly large classroom space and/or a major presenter become available on short notice. Similarly, we are adding information to various categories of the website when it becomes available, such as \$15 tickets to major GMU performing arts events, LLI's exhibition at the April 8 Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair, real time announcements of class changes, and NOVA's April 25 Green Festival registration. The master calendar on the Home Page is an easy reference for months ahead. We hope these enhancements help ensure you do not

miss LLI classes or events that are important to you.

- By a show of hands, a majority of those who attended the March Forum suggested we have the Forum's business meeting immediately after the featured speaker's presentation instead of taking a five-minute break. As an interim approach, we will start with the April Forum by proceeding directly with the business meeting without the break. This allows members who are working on special projects to bring everyone up to date on developments. Throughout, as desired, members can enjoy coffee and pastries. If we limit the time for the Forum speaker and business meeting to 90 minutes or less, the combined program will approximate the duration of our 90-minute classes.

We request your continued support so we can develop responses to the challenges we face in a manner that leverages our strengths and joys.

Best, Anna

MEMBER UPDATE

June Chalou

chaloujune@gmail.com



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

Debra Berry, 2904 Montauk Ct., Falls Church VA 22042, phone: 703-645-0068

[At any time, if you have established a member ID and password, you can go to the Member Directory to search for a current member. At the website llinova.org click on the Member Area and then Member Directory.]



LLI's New Website – More Changes Coming!

In early March, we implemented Phase 2 of our three-phase website implementation. This phase added membership information into the system, which opened the “Member Area” to your access. We sent out detailed instructions by email on how to log into your account, create a password, and then manage your account. We hope by now that all our members have completed this procedure.

Having established access to your account, you can now manage/update your member “profile” (e.g., name, address, phone, and email) and add an image and description into your member account. In addition, you will have access to our Member Directory so that you can contact other LLI members by phone or email. In addition, the system will now begin to email automatic dues renewal reminders, and you can now choose to renew by credit card or by check. The functions to join SIGs and Committees online will be implemented over the next several months as we coordinate with SIG and Committee leaders.

You do not, however, need to log in to your account on the website just to browse and access most of the features on the site. You only need to log in if: you want to manage your account (pay dues, revise your contact information), register for classes (this feature will be available with the Summer 2019 Semester), or access data restricted to members only (e.g., Member Directory). If you attempt to access areas or information restricted to members, you will be asked to log in to your account before you can proceed.

Phase 3 of our plan will be the implementation of online class registration, but that will not start until we have posted the summer semester classes, probably in early May. When that process is ready, we will provide detailed instructions on how to register for classes.

Along with the new website, we introduced our new administrative email address and new phone number. If you have questions, contact our LLI Administrator at admin@llinova.org. Our new office phone is 703-323-3746. If you run into problems using the new system, click on the [LLI/NOVA Website Help Desk](#) (click the link) on our Home Page in the Quick Connect box and leave us a description of the issue. You can also send comments and suggestions to our administrative email account or to the Help Desk.

Remember to check the LLI website frequently to stay current with LLI activities. A new feature available for some classes is Online Class Material (under the Classes tab) where you can review and download instructor provided class information. The News Alert box contains new/updated information. Information on SIG meetings, Trips, and Study/Travel can be found on their own information pages and on the events calendar. We also have extensive photo galleries of LLI activities.



Join the LLI Poetry Group for a Spring Fling!

You are enthusiastically invited to attend the “Spring Fling Open House” sponsored by the LLI Poetry Group. Come celebrate spring and poetry with us. We feature all the things you enjoy -- flowers, live music, balloons, light fare and treats, including chocolate! Also, if you find yourself moved to do so, please bring a poem to share with the group. It can be something you’ve written yourself or one of your classic favorites. You’ll find we’re a very appreciative audience. We look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Little River United Church of Christ,
Social Hall

When: Friday, April 26, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

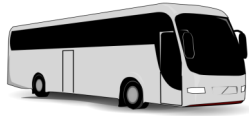
Why: For Poetry and Friendship!



Study Travel

Our Study/Travel trip for 2020 will be a **Rhine and Moselle River cruise!** We are working with our travel provider, Grand Circle Travel, to make final arrangements. We will tentatively depart on this trip in mid-June. Reservations will open in late April. We will be providing more details to members on our Study/Travel mailing list and posting information on our web page at [Study/Travel Program](#) (click on the link).

Happy Traveling – Bob Huley [Questions: Contact Bob at studytravel@llinova.org]



Spring Trips Update

Staunton, Virginia: Space is still available for our spring trip to Staunton, Virginia on May

14th and 15th. If you have not yet registered and would like to join us, please send your payment to Excursionaire as soon as possible. Full details of the trip are available on our website www.llinova.org ([Click Here](#)) or questions may be directed to Maureen Cyron at Excursionaire, 703-323-9040 or Pat Harrison, 703-550-7530.

Spy Tour: By popular demand, on Tuesday, May 21st Gary Powers, our speaker at the January Forum, will be guiding us to many of the locations and scenes of international espionage activity throughout Arlington, Washington, and Georgetown areas. We will then head to the Cold War Museum in Warrenton, Virginia which was founded by Mr. Powers to honor Cold War veterans and preserve their history. Full details of the day are available on the website. If you are planning to join us, please submit your payment so that it is received in the LLI office not later than April 5th. We must have a minimum of 30 participants by this date for the tour to take place. If you have already registered or plan to register for either or both trips, you are welcome to invite a family member or friend to join you for the same member price.



Special Interest Groups

See the llinova.org website at the Home Page pulldown menu for SIGs



Favorite Books

Thursday, April 18, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Braddock District Governmental Center
9002 Burke Lake Road

Supervisor's Meeting Room at Kings Park Library

Our selection this month is one that was postponed from November, due to bad weather. We will be discussing "brown girl dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson. This lyrical memoir, written in free verse, offers a portrait of the author's life from birth through the fifth grade. Come join us!

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone, 703-525-9623, or smaldonega@hotmail.com.



Lunch with the Gourmands at Myanmar Restaurant

Join us on Thursday April 11 at 12:30 p.m. as the Gourmands gather for Burmese food at the Myanmar Restaurant in Falls Church. Burmese cuisine is a fusion from the cuisine of China, Thailand, and India which are neighbors of Myanmar (formerly Burma). This is a small, family-owned restaurant frequented by Burmese nationals.

Try an appetizer of fresh crunchy vegetable salad, vegetable samosas with tamarin sauce, or spring rolls. Taste a main dish of chicken or pork served with fresh mango or coconut. Try the thousand-layered pancake bread. What a treat

for the taste buds! Although the menu may identify some dishes as spicy, the chef can prepare the dishes to the diner's preference from no spice to very spicy.

This restaurant is located just inside the Beltway off Rt. 29 in the Merrifalls Plaza Shopping Center at 7810 Lee Hwy. It is fully accessible, and there is plenty of parking. Your hosts are Ann & Bob Gisch. Please reserve a place by April 7 via email at ann.gisch@gmail.com or via phone at 703-764-3058.



Visual and Performing Arts SIG

April and May

Museums Visits

- Weekend trip to Richmond, April 12-14. You can still join us for a day or the entire weekend! We are staying at the Graduate Hotel.
- April 23rd National Gallery of Art meetup to view the Tintoretto Exhibition
- May 18th, another outing to the National Museum of African American Art and Culture

George Mason Deeply Discounted Performances...any available seat for \$15!

- April 12th Guitar Virtuoso Pablo Sainz Villegas

- April 20th Parsons Dance troupe.

Details on how to purchase discount \$15 tickets for the GMU events are on the webpage, pull-down Menu for Special Interest Groups for this SIG.

Learn and Paint...or just Paint with the Fairfax Art League!

- May 9th Fairfax Art League meetup where you can work with Mark Geiger on watercolor painting techniques or with other FAL members. Contact Anna Dixon if you have questions.

