



Volume 24—Number 7

## News & Views

July 2020



### Some Things a Kindergartner Can Assess

July is the beginning of our new LLI/NOVA program year, a time to expect information about forthcoming high-lights. This is especially so now that government social-distancing guidelines are being relaxed. We want to return to normal instantly. Unfortunately, experts say we will never return to normal and that the “new normal” will not be instant.

Further, it is befuddling when one notes how educational institutions are planning to care for those who are young and fit. For example, Fairfax County Public Schools and nearby colleges and universities are planning for limited in-person classes this fall. Across the country, many colleges and universities say that the fall semester’s reduced physical on-campus presence is likely to end when students go home for Thanksgiving. These restrictions are for the young and vibrant. Do we need to ask a kindergartner how such an environment likely will affect us who are in the high-risk age group?

Think back to March when the NBA announced it was ending its 2020 season well before the federal government announced our COVID-19 shut-down. Many of us wondered why a \$10 billion industry would act so hastily and aggressively. Well, now we know.

Safeguarding the health and well-being of our members is paramount as we develop plans for this fall. Our high-risk group must plan for both

in-person and online Zoom videoconferencing activities and classes. Our Curriculum Committee is developing its second draft of fall classes, a mix of in-person and online offerings. For the in-person classes, we will require social distancing, provide hand sanitizer, and ask those returning from foreign travel not to participate within 14 days upon return.

Nevertheless, there is some good news: This pandemic also forced us to address our underserved members who miss participating in many events due to reduced comfort with driving, short-term illness, last-minute contractor or delivery commitment, and the like. At our June Board meeting, Dick Robison, Curriculum Committee Chair, said his committee would offer many classes that also stream live so that members can have both an in-person experience along with watching simultaneously via video technology from home. And we are fortunate to have a team of willing instructors and embracing members who showed little hesitation shifting to the Zoom format.

We encourage you to provide us with your agenda suggestions for the July 17th annual Board retreat. We plan to consider the need for another survey, next steps for the scholarship program, development of a series of group discussions for members living solo, addressing the concerns of those with three years or less LLI/NOVA membership, future study-travel options, and more.

Often, the most casual comment gains momentum. Last month one of the kudos we received on

an efficient and engaging June annual members meeting came from Mamie Kam-Ng, who also suggested that we keep the June Forum separate from the members meeting. The Board agreed: The 2021 members meeting will be separate from the June Forum.

Remember to stay connected. The various public demonstrations and the plethora of coronavirus guidance dos and don'ts can be overwhelming.

Best, Anna



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## TRIPS PROGRAM

Our LLI/NOVA members have many opportunities to tour places of interest in the Washington, D.C., area. The Nation's Capital has an abundance of offerings in the arts, museums, institutions, and historical sites for us to explore.

The Trips Program offers an opportunity to engage with one another while learning about places of interest in a small group setting. The common element of LLI/NOVA members is a desire to keep learning. In that endeavor, a benefit to our members is that our trips typically include a guided tour that offers a wealth of facts and tidbits. As we tour together, our trips enable us to share in camaraderie and to get to know one another.

The Trips Program's committee members are Pat Harrison, Debi Hunsberger, Patti McKnight and Carol Fagnani. The program was established many years ago by Louise Souk to engage LLI/NOVA members in a variety of educational, cultural, and social activities and to give them an opportunity to interact with other members. Our first Day Trip was in July 1998 to Arlington, VA, and included a visit to the Newseum, lunch at the Orleans House, and a guided tour of the Pentagon. The first Overnight Trip was in May 1999 to Cape May, NJ.

Our offerings include visits to local sites that may occupy all or part of the day. Depending on the site and other factors, transportation for these local sites are done one of two ways: We may arrange for commercial bus transportation, or we may have what we refer to as an "informal meetup," whereby each participant provides his/her own transportation to a designated place. Participants may decide to drive separately, use public transportation, or organize a carpool.

In addition, we offer overnight trips to sites in the region and nearby states. The duration of these trips varies from one to several days and usually includes transportation and overnight lodging. These trips are typically provided by commercial tour operators.

Trips are selected based on feedback from members by word of mouth, on class evaluation forms with suggestions and recommendations, and sometime by surveys. The committee members research, plan, and organize trips that are interesting, fun, and educational. We work together so that no one person on the committee feels overwhelmed. Each trip planned is a team effort. We encourage others who have places they would like to visit to join us and pursue those ideas as a member of the committee.

As of now, trips are suspended until further notice, pending health advisories concerning Covid-19. We have had to cancel for this summer trips to the State Department Diplomatic Reception Room, the Heurich House Museum in Dupont Circle, St. Michaels, Md., and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens.

However, provided we get the go-ahead, we will resume with trips to the Amish country in Pennsylvania and to Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

Our day trip to Amish country was rescheduled to September. A notice will be published so that additional members may register for the trip. We will travel by bus to Lancaster, Pa., where we tour

the Mennonite Center and join our local guide to begin our narrated tour. The guide will talk to us about the Old Amish and Mennonite customs while we see farmers working their crops and children going to school. We then stop at an Amish bakery for some local pastries. Next, we head to the Strasburg Railroad to board a beautifully restored train car, which is pulled by an historic steam engine, for a nine-mile round-trip journey to Paradise, Pa. Our lunch will be at an Amish farmhouse where the Stolfus family will share stories and answer questions about their life.

Past local trips have included the Congressional Cemetery Tour, an Occoquan River Cruise, and visits to the Pentagon and the 9/11 Memorial, the National Arboretum, Lincoln's summer home, and the Washington Nationals' baseball games, to name a few.

Past informal meetups included visits to the Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art, National Museum of African-American History and Culture, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Past overnight trips included visits to West Virginia with a train ride; Staunton, Va., for a live Shakespearian play; Frank Lloyd Wright's houses at Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, Pa., and Newport, R.I.

Come join in the fun and participate in our trips! There is so much to learn! Also, we are looking for additional volunteers to join our committee. It's not a time-consuming endeavor as we each take a small part of the workload and we get it all completed in less time than you would think.

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## **Louise Souk Founded the Trips Program**

### **A remembrance from Edward Mark**

Louise was an organizer. She arranged about 100 trips during 11 years. About the first half of

that time she did not have a committee but planned all the day trips herself. When she did get a committee, I had to keep reminding her that the committee was not a democracy.

There were no travel company packaged tours. She chartered buses from the list of approved companies for Fairfax County Public Schools. She required from each company for each trip an insurance certificate, from the company's insurance agent, naming LLI/NOVA as a beneficiary of the company's liability insurance.

The first overnight trip was to the Lynchburg area. The Board gave Louise an LLI/NOVA credit card but did not establish an adequate credit limit on the account. Personal credit cards paid for the dinner and the next day for the hotel.

After that trip, Louise realized that she should have professional help with overnight trips. One of the bus companies told her about a woman named Irene in Reston doing business as Washington Landmark Tours. Irene specialized in organizing school group travel to the Washington area. Louise would tell Irene where she wanted to go and what she wanted to do and see, and Irene would plan a trip. Irene always included too much in her plans. Louise and I went over each proposal minute by minute and always made deletions. LLI/NOVA members do not move as fast as schoolchildren.

There were usually two overnight trips a year. During Louise's tenure there were also two cruises. When Louise stopped doing trips, she left instructions in the office on how to organize and lead day and overnight trips.



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Buck Myers





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## LLI/NOVA: Connecting and staying connected with you

Over the last 18 months we have implemented a new interactive website along with other online abilities that provide greater benefits to members which have also resulted in substantial saving to operating costs. Benefits include:

- The ability to keep the cost of membership very low
- Effective and efficient administration of our membership
- Ability to quickly provide essential information to members via email and the website
- Access to essential and up-to-date documents online: Member Directory, Class Catalogs, and Newsletters
- Online Class registration
- Ability to accept new members and renewals online
- Online payment of dues and other fees online
- Online Scholarship donations
- Members now have the ability to amend their Member Profile to include and share with other members, information about their interests, activities and experiences.
- The ability to respond quickly to the challenges posed by the Coronavirus:
  - Crediting 360 member accounts for 90 days
  - Quick and seamless switch to Zoom for classes and meetings.

## NVCC Social Host Program

Patty Steelman

The Social Host program for international students on a State Department scholarship has a new schedule for this year. Instead of arriving in July, their arrival has been postponed until January, 2021. Their NOVA fall semester classes will be via virtual programming. The host/student pairs will be announced in the late fall allowing for pre-arrival communication.

It has been a pleasure for me and my husband to introduce international students to American family life, traditions, and culture. (Hopefully there will be parades again in our future.) There are foods they have heard of, or read about, but never tasted--peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cheesecake, or other dishes. It's fun to see their reactions to new experiences.

Please make room in your life for a new young friend--the commitment is for getting together once a month--probably January through May. [Click here](#) or copy the following website address into your browser:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexfo40lmY5dbrE569HQyq0jvVigziZ3zqs4p6LHarGRaAHw/formResponse>

For further information you are welcome to contact me: [pattysteelman@gmail.com](mailto:pattysteelman@gmail.com) or, the CCI Program Coordinators listed on the flyer on page 6.



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Richard Steelman



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The summer months are upon us and we are busy practicing social distancing, Zooming and doing curbside pick-ups. Somehow travel, picnics, concerts and other summer activities are gone from our agendas in 2020.

As in past years, we will not hold Forums in July and August and thus will not be collecting food during these months. But we are all aware of the tremendous needs and demands on food pantries at this time. Below are three locations where food or monetary donations may be made this summer to assist with the increased demand caused by the pandemic:

1. Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, welcomes monetary donations to help serve the community (assists 2,000 families per week with food). You also can drop off food at their warehouse. Currently they need canned chili, canned chicken, canned fruits, pasta sauce and rice.
2. St Matthews UMC, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003, is currently serving approximately 90 families per week with food bags or grocery/gas gift cards. A food collection basket is by the church's front door on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where you can drop off food (cereals, canned meat, pastas, canned fruit, and canned vegetables) for the food pantry. Or you can send a donation to the Joy Fund to assist with this food pantry.
3. ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA 22150. Their web site -- [echo-inc.org](http://echo-inc.org) -- details their hours, current needs, how to drop off donations safely, and how to make a monetary donation. They accept food, personal care items and cleaning supplies, as well as monetary donations.

Thank you for your continuing generosity. We look forward to seeing everyone in September when we hopefully can receive donations at the monthly Forum.

-- Joyce Pomeroy and Betsy Pugin, Community Outreach Coordinators

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## Tabletop Games

The Trivia email game we sent out on June 23 was won by Arlene Gribben with 4 out of 10 correct answers. Arlene is smart and only got 4 so don't be afraid to try it. Charlotte Rosenfield will send out the next Trivia email on June 23 with the next scheduled for July 23. Contact Mary Lu Bednarsky if you want to be included in the email distribution. [Click here](#) for contact information.

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## From humoropedia.com

What do you call sad coffee?  
Despresso.

Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?"

Student: "My father's checkbook."

Why was the lawyer skimming the Bible right before he died?

He was looking for loopholes.

STAR WARS:

What do you call 5 Siths piled on top of a lightsaber?

A Sith-Kabob!

What do you call the website Chewbacca started that gives out Empire secrets?

Wookieeleaks

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

Anytime I see an autobiography on the shelf I just skip to the about the author section.



# Be A Social Host For An International Student!



## What is a Social Host?

A social host is someone who provides a CCI participant with friendship and experiences that help them get to know American life. This opportunity offers a mutual exchange of culture and perspectives as the social host and the CCI student both interactively share and expand one another's world views.

*Please note: the CCI participants live in apartments. They will not be living with you.*

## What is the commitment?

- Attend an orientation prior to meeting with your student(s).
- The CCI Program will coordinate an orientation and "meet & greet" prior to the start of the fall semester.
- Meet with your student once a month throughout the academic year.

## Suggested Activities:

- Meet for coffee or lunch
- Go to a museum/park/movie/sporting event/concert
- Cook together, go hiking, celebrate a holiday together
- Go to a local school event (play, football game, concert)



*For more information or to sign up, contact the CCI*

*Program Coordinators:*

Alexandria: Sarah Yirenkyi at 703-933-8097 or  
syirenkyi@nvcc.edu

Annandale: Megan Juneau at 703-323-2354 or  
mjuneau@nvcc.edu

The United States Department of State's **Community College Initiative (CCI) Program** provides participants from under-served areas and underrepresented groups with a one-year, non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. This year there are 36 participants at NOVA (Alexandria & Annandale campuses) from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, and Turkey.