



Volume 24—Number 9

News & Views

September 2020

Wednesday, September 2

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

Social Zooming: 9:30 a.m.

Announcements: 9:50 a.m.

Presentation: 10:00 a.m.

(You will receive an email. Just click on the URL included.)



We are fortunate to launch our 2020-21 Monthly Forum series with a presentation by Northern Virginia Community College President Anne M. Kress.

There could not be a better fit as we enter our 25th year of LLI/NOVA's founding *and* partnering with NOVA-Annandale.

Dr. Kress is the sixth president of the college, a role she began in January 2020. She has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, having served previously as a tenured faculty member in English, department chair, associate vice president, provost, and president at community colleges in Florida and New York.

She has served on the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges and the Presidents' Trust of the Association of

American Colleges and Universities. She earned two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and a doctorate from the University of Florida.

Northern Virginia Community College is the largest public institution of higher education in Virginia, enrolling more than 75,000 students at its six campuses and through the Extended Learning Institute.

In addition, Northern Virginia has a rapidly growing population of citizens 65 and older who are still seeking intellectual stimulation. We are interested in gaining insight on these issues along with the plans to address them. **Senior Citizens are eligible to take Non-Credit (CEU) Courses free of charge (through Workforce Development) regardless of income.**

But during this pandemic, there are many challenges for higher education affecting students, some of them financial. Public health requirements for masks, barriers, cleaning, and other health protections have added costs, as have investments in training and technology to improve remote instruction and online courses. On the other hand, soaring tuition at some universities has led many families to question the price of a diploma.

Dr. Kress advises that NOVA is committed to follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Department of Health guidelines for COVID-19 safety, as well as the Commonwealth's guidance on both easing and reinstating public health restrictions as the situation changes.

Do not miss this opportunity to learn how our long-term NOVA partner is handling these issues. We may also get an indication of when we can anticipate returning to campus for in-person classes.



Stimulating new thoughts and connections

It is now meteorological fall, and COVID-19 still haunts, as we brace for a guaranteed tumultuous season. The predictable daily news will headline with coronavirus stats and the race for a vaccine, as well as the latest barbed exchanges associated with the presidential election.

Further, there is a lot of unexpected turmoil for us now during our later years. Many of us are probably off-schedule with routine dental and optical exams. We approach occasional outings by securing masks and a Clorox wipes canister!

Meanwhile, LLI/NOVA forges ahead. The Board, committee members, and volunteers who are challenged by our tension-filled environment continue to plan and execute forthcoming programs and events.

Education, social, and travel are the tenets of our mission. Of these, education is deemed most important. Being exposed to stimulating new thoughts as part of a group is highly invigorating.

Fortunately we were able to pivot quickly to video technology using the Zoom platform under the

leadership of Dick Robison and his Curriculum Committee. The shift to Zoom was accomplished only by your support and willingness to embrace change. Your well-wishes, member suggestions, and atta-boy emails were extremely encouraging. Many members expressed a desire for follow-up conversation after attending a thought-provoking class. This connectivity is why we sorely miss our in-person classes -- although most of us drove to class alone (lol).

Even though COVID uncertainties still overshadow our delivery model and our lives. LLI/NOVA is still open to emerging opportunities. Among them are many firsts for this fall. Board member Nan Peck is sharing her many skills by presenting several classes. We are offering an experiential online art class where a highly acclaimed artist will teach and provide real-time feedback to participants via Zoom. Dick Martin and the Scholarship Committee just launched its annual campaign, hoping to double the annual donations. We have already secured speakers for our monthly Forums through year's end. And before we blink, Dick Robison and the Curriculum Committee will start planning for the winter catalog.

Overlaying these events, Bonnie Hopler and Martie Klee are producing monthly features and happenings as we celebrate our 25th anniversary year.

Stay connected, be well, and reach out with your suggestions for us to stay connected better.

Best, Anna



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Ray Bednarsky



From www.readearlyanddaily.org

Children's Book Drive

WHAT ORGANIZATION ARE WE SUPPORTING?

Our recipient this year is R.E.A.D.(Read Early and Daily). Recognizing the critical importance of early access to books, the mission of R.E.A.D. is to reach children in need from birth to eight years of age. Its motto says it all: "READ: growing hearts and minds one book at a time."

HOW CAN WE HELP?

There is a pressing need for NEW books, especially board books for infants and toddlers. You will find a Wish List that the organization has provided on page 7 of this newsletter. You can buy the books that you would like to donate online. Or you can order from the independent booksellers website to be found at www.readearlyanddaily.org.

WHERE TO DONATE?

While we continue to shelter in place, you can safely choose from either of the following options:

1. BETWEEN NOW AND THURSDAY, OCT. 1: When placing your order, have the books sent directly to the following address: Lynne Smaldone, 232 N. Edgewood St., Arlington, VA 22201.

2. ON MONDAY, OCT. 5: Take your books to Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Rd. There will be two cars in the parking lot with open trunks, ready to receive your donations. Social distancing and mask-wearing will be observed. Questions? Contact Lynne at lynne.smaldone@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH — FOOD PANTRIES AND MORE

The food pantry chairs are getting lonely, without the live monthly Forum in which to collect food and get volunteers to deliver to designated charities.

News reports tell us the need for food is great as the jobless rate increases. However, in August and September, many charitable collections focus on school supplies instead. Keep in mind that even though most local schoolchildren will be at home learning online, they will still need school supplies and backpacks to store them in.

One of the charities we support each year is currently in need of both food and school supplies. The FACETS (Facets@facetscares.org) website says, " For every dollar you donate, an anonymous donor will generously DOUBLE your donation, up to \$75,000." Go online to donate or send a check made to FACETS, 10700 Page Ave., Building B, Fairfax VA 22030. Please enter "LLI/NOVA" on the memo line to enable them to track our total donations.

All the charities we have supported in the past are in great need of your help.

For more information, [click here](#) to find contact data for Betsy Pugin.

Labor Day ???



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Special Interest Groups



Favorite Books Club

In September 2002, LLI/NOVA member Nan Liner held an organizational meeting to form a book club. It was decided that they would meet on the third Thursday of the month (excluding December, July, and August) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Books would be chosen from a variety of genres - novels, biographies, classics, contemporary literature, and others. Members would bring suggestions to the group for consideration and come to a consensus on what to read. There would be a "facilitator" for each book, helping to guide the discussion.

They met for the first time that October to discuss "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. And the rest, as they say, is history -- at least Favorite Books Club history!

As they say, "Books let you travel without moving your feet." Since that day in October 2002, the Book Club has "traveled" far and wide -- to Russia, with "A Gentleman in Moscow"; to China, with "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane"; to post-Civil War Texas, with "The News of the World"; and to the 1936 Olympics with "The Boys in the Boat," an all-time favorite.

Over the years, our focus has expanded to include Young Adult novels, such as "The Book Thief"; Black History Month, "The Warmth of Other Suns"; and Women's History Month, "My Beloved World."

Highlights along the way:

June 2012: Connie Fullerton suggested that the meeting be devoted to members offering ideas for books to read over the summer hiatus, an

idea so popular that "Summer Reads" became a permanent addition.

June 2015: The Book Club began collecting children's books to donate locally, an activity that has become an annual event which now includes all LLI/NOVA members.

April 2017: The Book Club invited local author Urmilla Khanna to talk about her memoir "Boundaries of the Wind," which followed her journey from India, as she broke barriers and crossed boundaries to fulfill her dream of practicing medicine in America.

Eighteen years later, we're still here, thanks in no small part to the other coordinators who led the Book Club in the past. Kudos to Nan Liner, Libby Burge, Arlene Gribben (six years!), and the late Connie Fullerton.

We'll be meeting via Zoom on Sept. 17 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss "The Distance between Us" by Reyna Grande. Come join us!

Lynne Smaldone ([Click here](#) for contact information.)

Tabletop Games

The winner of the July 28 Trivia Game by email is Ray Bednarsky with 6 correct answers plus the bonus question answer. Would you have guessed that the country which is the largest producer of coffee is Brazil? Gina Trapp will compile the questions for the August 25 Trivia Game. If you wish to join for this game contact Mary Lu Bednarsky ([click here](#)). We are looking for a volunteer Trivia Master for Sept. 29.



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LLI Scholarship

Recipients

LLI is concerned that the current pandemic, with its high unemployment and rising grocery costs, will make NOVA students' financial challenges more severe this year than usual. For this reason, LLI/NOVA has decided to set a target of \$25,000 for its scholarship program fundraising. The target also commemorates this year's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of LLI/NOVA's founding.

Our scholarships are of two types. Leadership scholarships go to students who have demonstrated unusual initiative, energy, and creativity in support of campus and community organizations and activities. Academic scholarships are awarded to students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and compelling financial need.

The preferred way to make your tax-deductible donation for LLI scholarships is online. Go to <https://linoval.org/index.php/about-us/scholarship/>. Then click on the "Scholarship Donation" button at the bottom of the first page to make a credit card donation. If you prefer to mail a check, also tax-deductible, make it payable to LLI/NOVA with a notation for Student Scholarship Fund. Mail it to LLI/NOVA, CG Building Room 202, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003-3743.

The Scholarship Committee is beginning to hear from this year's scholarship recipients. Here is what we have heard from them so far:

1. Joud Ainabali I am from Jordan (Middle East). I used to be the SOLO singer in my high school

choir. I used to be a folkloric dance trainer back in Jordan for 12 years. I had many volunteering activities during high school with initiatives that supported less privileged families in Jordan.

My major at NOVA is business administration. Planning to minor in international relations. My plans are transferring to a 4-year college (George Mason University) and obtaining my bachelor's degree. I want to establish my own foundation and help the people in need.

2. Ranai Kazi My name is Ranai, I was born and raised in Springfield, Virginia. My special interests are playing tennis, tutoring, and reading historical fiction. My major is in Health Sciences and I plan to apply to the Diagnostic Sonography program in the spring. After I graduate from NOVA, I plan to gain experience as a sonographer and complete my Bachelor's degree at a university.

3. Jolypich Pek I am very grateful for this scholarship award and your kind donation and support in education. I moved to the United States in 2017 and I grew up in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Currently, I am a Part-time Math Tutor at NOVA of the Developmental Maths Lab. I am planning to finish NOVA requirements to obtain an Associate Degree in Science with Math Specialization. After that, I will be transferring to George Mason University for a Bachelor in Mathematics. While in college, I would be searching for summer internship program that would help me get more experience. I want to become a Data Analyst and maybe continue for a Master Degree.



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In Memoriam

John Bogart

Former LLI/NOVA member John Bogart, most recently living in Naples, Fla, died on July 29.

John joined LLI/NOVA in 1998 following careers with the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency. He particularly enjoyed attending the Forums, and to the delight of many members, organized the “Lunch Bunch.” He would choose a different restaurant after each Forum and invite all who wished to attend. Not only did our members get to partake in a variety of good food, but these gatherings also served to help people get to know one another.

John also organized eight Russian River cruises, a Ukraine cruise and a Danube/Romania cruise in which many LLI/NOVA members participated.

John will be interred with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Dianne Parrish

LLI/NOVA member Dianne Parrish died on July 23. Although Dianne had been an LLI/NOVA member for only a few years, she quickly made friends and joined those groups of interest to her. She was an avid contributor in the Mystery Books SIG. Her favorite books were traditional British mysteries.

She participated in the knitting group where, according to one of the group’s members, she created beautiful items. Along with other LLI mem-

bers, Dianne also attended meetings of the Knitters and Crocheters Care group (KCG). This group began nearly 10 years ago as a way to bring together knitters and crocheters from the entire DC/Maryland/Virginia area to create items for charity. One member of the KCG described Dianne as “a very sweet and wonderful lady to talk to and to hear her stories. The group won’t be the same without her.”

Dianne also enjoyed attending outings of the Foodies & Friends SIG.

A native of Washington, D.C., she had a long career with the federal government working in a math/statistics capacity.

Sunshine Coordinator

For several years, LLI/NOVA member Pat Harrison has served as our Sunshine Coordinator. This position involves sending a card or acknowledgement to LLI/NOVA members if they have experienced a loss in their family or if they are ill. We thank Pat for her many years as Coordinator. She is now going to take a well-deserved rest and as of September 1, Gina Trapp will be taking over this function. Please contact Gina if you would like her to send a card or acknowledgement. For contact data [click here](#).



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Fritz Ernst

Read Early and Daily

2020 Wishlist

Our mission is to ensure babies and young children have new, quality, culturally relevant books of their own that are mirrors and windows into their everyday lives and communities.

BOARD BOOKS

Moo, Baa, La-la-la or other books by Sandra Boynton in English or Spanish

My Very First Bilingual Book series or other books by Eric Carle English or Spanish

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See? or other books by Bill Martin English or Spanish

I Know.. (Empowerment series) by Stephen Krensky

Zoom, Zoom, Baby! or other books by Karen Katz

Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions by Abrams Appleseed

I Will Talk to You, Little One by Tomie DePaola

Think Big, Little One by Vashti Harrison

Indestructibles series by various authors

Jane Cabrera's Story Time series (nursery rhymes and songs) by Jane Cabrera

Clive or Rosa series by Jessica Spanyol

Hello World! series by Jill McDonald

Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke

Any of the DK Touch and Feel series in English or Spanish

Plastic bath books or cloth books for babies

Lift-the-flap books for toddlers

PICTURE BOOKS

Red House, Tree House, Little Bitty Brown Mouse by Jane Godwin

Ada Twist, Scientist or other books by Andrea Beaty

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin

Ruby Finds a Worry by Tom Percival

Supertruck by Steve Savage

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan

Thank you, Omu! By Oge Mora

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfol

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld

After the Fall by Dan Santat

Vamos! Let's Go to Market by Raul the Third

Little Senses Series by Samantha Cotterill

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan Higgins

Alphablock by Christopher Franceschelli

EARLY READERS AND CHAPTER BOOKS

Elephant and Piggie or *Pigeon* books by Mo Willems

Mo series by David Adler

Pedro or *Katie Woo* series by Fran Manushkin

Zapato Power or *Sofia Martinez* series by Jacqueline Jules

Yasmin series by Saadia Faruqi

Sadiq series by Siman Nural

My Furry Foster Family by Debbie Michiko Florence

Narwhal series by Ben Clanton

King and Kayla series by Dori Hillestad Butler

Charlie and Mouse series by Laurel Snyder

Juana and Lucas series by Juana Medina