

Forum Schedule

No Forum in December. The January Forum will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Ranger Michael Kelly of the National Parks Service will present a talk on local history, entitled, "Braddock Road and the Western Expansion." He will illustrate his talk with slides about life in early Virginia when people even then complained about the traffic — too many covered wagons on Braddock Road and the Little River Turnpike. Ranger Kelly is well known and very popular with LLI members for his numerous outstanding and informative history courses. Please note that the Wednesday date is to accommodate a request by the college provost.

Looking ahead, the Forum on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, will feature Mr. Sam Clay, Director of the Fairfax County Public Library system. On Tuesday, March 3, 2009 the Forum committee is planning a program on the genetics revolution with a speaker from the NIH Human Genome Research Institute.



NOTICE

The college and LLI office will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Thanksgiving, November 26 – 28

Christmas, December 24 – January 4

Just a Reminder

Don't forget our
Holiday Luncheon

at the Country Club of Fairfax

Thursday, December 4, 2008, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Reservations must be received in the LLI office not later than December 1.



Country Club of Fairfax, site of our Holiday Luncheon.



LLI Student Scholarships

At the November 5 Forum you met Gurleen Tiwana ("Twiggy"), one of our former outstanding winners of LLI leadership scholarship awards. Hearing directly from these young people shows you how much our scholarships mean to them and how we can help them achieve their career goals. So please make a generous non-taxable contribution to this year's scholarship drive — you can mail your checks to LLI or give them to us at the holiday party.

Many thanks to those of you who have already made donations. We are currently halfway towards our goal of \$9,000!

Calendar of Events



December 2008

- No Forum
- 4 Holiday Party
- 12 Board meeting
- 12 Trip: Candlelight dinner at Gunston Hall

- 10 Board meeting
- 20 Newsletter mailing
- 24 Trip: Virginia's Capitol Bldg., Richmond

January 2009

- 7 Forum (Wed.) — *Note change from Tues. 1/6*
- 9 Board meeting
- 9 February newsletter deadline
- 19 Newsletter mailing

May 2009

- LLI Annual Picnic (date TBD)
- 5 Forum (Tues.)
- 6 Trip: John Wilkes Booth Escape Route
- 8 Board meeting
- 8 June newsletter deadline
- 18 Newsletter mailing
- 18-22 Trip: Southern Highlights

February 2009

- 3 Forum (Tues.)
- 6 March newsletter deadline
- 13 Board meeting
- 13 Valentine's Day Love Poem Party
- 16 Newsletter mailing

June 2009

- 2 Forum (Tues.)
- 12 Board meeting

March 2009

- 3 Forum (Tues.)
- 13 Board meeting
- 13 April newsletter deadline
- 23 Newsletter mailing

July 2009

- No Forum, no newsletter

August 2009

- No forum, no newsletter

April 2009

- 7 Forum (Tues.)
- 10 May newsletter deadline

NOTE: No December Forum. January's Forum is changed to *Wednesday*.

LLI Board of Directors

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Vice President: Bob Huley
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* year term ends

Administrator: Laura Charron

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Graphic Design/Desktop Publisher: Alfred Brothers

Mailing Coordinators: Colletta Hammond and Kathy Hall

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Members

Martha Siemering 703-569-2450
 martsiem@cox.net

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

Peggy Ann Helms, 5520 Kings Park Dr., Springfield, VA 22151; 703-323-6656, pah0194@gmail.com

Updates

Mary Gauthier, 10328 Sager Ave., Unit 110, Fairfax VA 22030-3568, 703-272-7719

Barry Goldstone, bagold1@cox.net

Annie Lauler, 703-533-8398

Shirley Lotz, Shirley.Lotz@ericksonresident.com

Mary O'Day, momeandering@gmail.com

Correction

Pat Goddard, 703-256-5038

Linda LeDuc, 703-578-1178



Deadline for February newsletter is January 9.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership renewal date. You must renew in order to register for courses and to participate in LLI's many other activities. Please complete the form in the Fall 2008 course catalogue and mail it to the LLI office with a check in the amount of \$110 for each person wishing to continue with LLI.



President's Message

The holidays are fast approaching...the time when family and friends join to celebrate and socialize together and we LLI'ers will be doing just that on December 4 when we assemble at the Country Club of Fairfax for our annual Holiday Luncheon. The Holiday Luncheon committee is busy finalizing arrangements for what will be a joyous celebration of the holiday season for all of us. If you haven't made your reservation yet, do it quickly.

This is a very busy time in our Institute's operating year — much work is being done by scores of our volunteer members. I want to thank the Audit Committee — Karren Scott, chair, Jack Wyatt and Lynda Mullins for their work in completing the audit of LLI finances in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. They report that our financial condition is good and our financial practices are sound. We can credit this to the fine work of our Treasurer, Phil Runge, the good oversight and planning of the Budget and Finance Committee and the sound management of your Board of Directors. Our Scholarship Program committee has commenced its work of raising funds and soliciting student applicants at the college. Initial response of the membership to the recent letter requesting donations to our Student Scholarship fund is most gratifying. If you haven't already done so, please consider making your contribution to this good cause. Our Forum Speaker committee has been providing us with interesting topics and speakers; we look forward to NPS Ranger Mike Kelly's presentation on "Braddock Road and The Western Expansion" at the next Forum meeting on January 7 (there is no Forum meeting in December). Most importantly, a majority of our members are attending the many courses in the Fall term education program, which was produced by our Curriculum Committee and with each course coordinated by a member volunteer and, for some courses, taught by members. While this occurs, the Curriculum Committee is at work planning the Winter/Spring education program. Scores more of our members are serving on other functional committees and groups and assisting with office administration. To all, we are grateful and give our thanks, for this is how our Institute thrives.

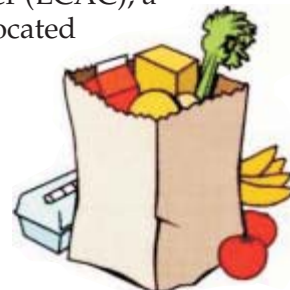
I wish everyone good health and good cheer during the holiday season and throughout the coming year. I hope to be able to state these wishes in person to all of you at the Holiday Luncheon on December 4.

*Happy Holidays,
Dick DiBuono*

Community Outreach

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

There will not be a food collection in December, but we will continue to collect food and other items again in January 2009. January recipient will be the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), a nonprofit social service agency located behind the Lorton Library on Richmond Highway. It has been helping the less fortunate of the community for more than thirty years. LCAC mission is to provide assistance and offer outreach, which includes food, financial assistance, furniture and clothing assistance to individuals and families to prevent homelessness. Their goal is to promote the importance of healthy families and to help families improve their lives and assist them toward self-sufficiency.



The center serves more than 350 families in the Lorton area with a majority of the people working, but need supplemental assistance. Just a year ago, an average of only 180 families a week came in for food; today that number is well over 300. LCAC relies on donations from individuals, schools, houses of worship and businesses. Contributions are always needed and accepted. In addition to food items, pampers, home cleaning products, laundry detergent, and personal care items are needed.

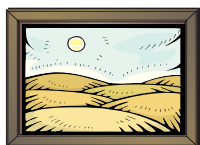
LCAC was recently selected from several hundred applicants in the DC area as "one of the finest small charities in Greater Washington" by the prestigious Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington. Learn more about LCAC at www.lortonaction.org.

Pat Harrison will deliver the food in January. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by all receiving organizations.

LLI Is Looking for Leaders

The nominating committee is about to recommend directors to help continue the direction of our Institute. What better way to learn about LLI from the inside out than working with other LLI members? If you have helpful ideas, a few hours of time and would like to contribute to the overall management of LLI as a member or officer of the Board of Directors, please contact the nominating committee chair, Don Reynolds at 703-352-7494.

Special Interest Groups



Arts & Smarts

Donna Trogler, 703 751-8932
or E-Mail at DTrogler@aol.com

Arts & Smarts does not have a museum tour scheduled for December. Future tours will be announced in upcoming newsletters. If you wish to be included in the group mailing list, please contact Donna Trogler.



LLI Bridge Group

Bob or Merry Huley 703-534-4819
or 703-489-9045
E-mail: roberthuley@cox.net

December and January Play Dates:

In December, we will be varying from our standard dates and play on **Wednesday, December 3**, and **Thursday, December 18**. In January, we will play on **Wednesday, January 14**, and **Wednesday, January 28**. **Location:** Mason District Governmental 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, or email Bob or Merry, if you would like to attend (or for more information) so that we can provide sufficient card tables.

November Results: Top three finishers on November 6 were Betty Yeary, Nate Rosenbaum, and Mary Underwood. Congratulations to all.



Community Theater

Helen Clark 703-573-1571,
h.a.clark@worldnet.att.net
Norma Hughes 703-960-6279,
nah.home@verizon.net

Our next theater venture will be to attend the Arlington Players production of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. Performances begin on January 30; we have tentatively selected the matinee performance on Sunday, February 1, 2009. For further information, contact Helen Clark or Norma Hughes. We invite members interested in learning more about this Special Interest Group to meet briefly after the January Forum.



LLI Current Events Group

Date: Friday, December 5, 2008
Place: Mason District Governmental Center
Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Topic: The Economy —

- ◆ Is the Economic Bailout helping to get our economy on track?
- ◆ What additional measures would you recommend?

Join us if you would like to share your ideas or learn more about current events. We want to give all, who wish, a chance to speak. After an hour, we choose the next topic. Then we have open discussion on current events of interest to anyone. We meet in the Small Conference Room of the George Mason District Governmental Center.

Suggested future topics include:

- ◆ What Should the New President Say in his State of the Union address?
- ◆ Security and civil rights
- ◆ Energy prices & role for wind and solar power
- ◆ Effect of election on Supreme Court and judiciary
- ◆ Executive privilege
- ◆ Food safety and needed actions
- ◆ Changing Congressional redistricting or setting term limits

For more information, Email Shirley Lotz at Shirley.Lotz@Ericksonresident.com or svlotz@alum.wellesley.edu or call her at (703) 451-4371.



Favorite Books Club

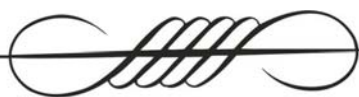
Arlene Gribben 703-569-0357,
arlenegribb@aol.com

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Place: Mason District Governmental Center, Small Conference Room

The book club will not meet in December.

Looking ahead to January, the book for review is *Angle of Repose*. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Wallace Stegner is a story of discovery — personal, historical, and geographical. Confined to a wheelchair, a retired historian sets out to write his grandparents' remarkable story, chronicling their days spent carving civilization into the surface of America's western frontier. But his research reveals even more about his own life than he's willing to admit. What emerges is an enthralling portrait of four generations in the life of an American family.





LLI Gourmands

Sixteen Gourmands enjoyed a delightful lunch at the Fireside Grill in Lorton on November 7, Barbara Woods hosted the event. After

lunch, the group visited the new Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton. There will not be a Gourmands event in December; all are encouraged to attend the Holiday Luncheon. Becky Perry has scheduled the January event at the Saigon Café in Falls Church, on Friday, January 23. Please call Becky at 703-591-8733 or e-mail her at perry8733@cox.net for more information about this event.



Nimble Fingers

Bev Portman, 703-698-8366,
firse@juno.com

The December meeting of Nimble Fingers, the needlecraft special interest group, is scheduled for

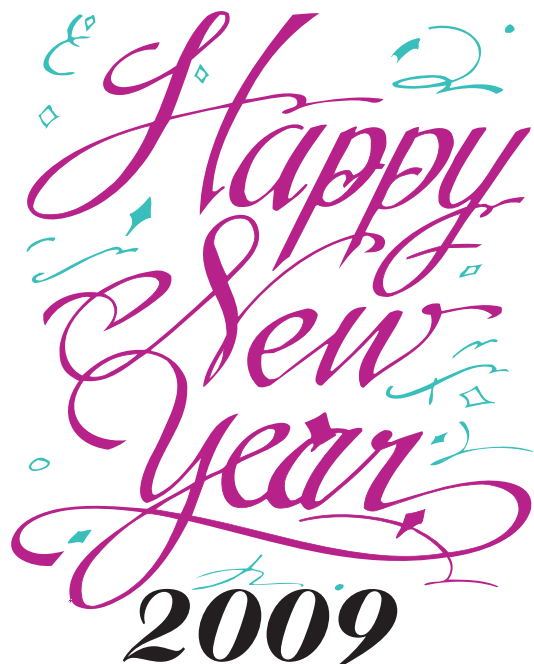
Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, in the Small Conference Room of the Mason District Governmental Center. Bring a small project to work on; all types of needlecraft are welcome. For further information regarding this group, contact Bev Portman.



Walkabouts

Liddell McLeod 703-698-8366,
Liddell_mcl@cox.net

No walks are scheduled in December. Please contact Liddell McLeod to add your name to the Walkabouts email list or to request telephone notices of future dates and locations.



LLI Study/Travel 2009

*“Staircase to the Past: Utah’s Grand Circle of Parks and Monuments,” September 14–24, 2009
(Elderhostel Program # 8727NP)*

LLI Study/Travel group will travel to the National Parks in the West as the group trip for 2009. We will visit Zion, Bryce, Capital Reef, Canyonlands, Arches, Monument Valley, Rainbow Bridge, Lake Powell, the Grand Canyon, and much more. This will be an LLI “charter” trip, part of a larger Elderhostel tour group (estimated at 40). We have 25 pre-reserved spaces exclusively for LLI. The trip begins and ends in St. George, Utah. Tour cost is \$1,574 per person double occupancy (single supplement \$400), which includes lodging, all tours, and virtually all meals.

Round trip travel is estimated to be an additional \$800 per person. We will arrange group air travel and ground transportation to and from St. George so that, to the extent feasible, we will all arrive and depart at the same time unless individuals wish to make their own travel arrangements. We may also develop some optional LLI trip extensions.

Registration for this program will open on December 16. If you are interested, you will be responsible for making your own reservation (by phone only) to Elderhostel. This is a very popular trip and reservations fill quickly. Detailed information on the program should be on the Elderhostel website on December 16 and will be in their next published catalog. If you search for the program now, you will get a message that it is not yet open for registration.

To register on or after December 16, you must call Elderhostel’s toll free number 877-426-8056 and tell them you want to register for the “Staircase to the Past: Utah Grand Circle of Parks and Monuments Program # 8727NP.” Please note that our reservations for 25 are held for 45 days, or basically until the end of January 2009. Your initial deposit will be \$100 (check or credit card).

For more information, contact Bob Huley, 703-534-4819 or roberthuley@cox.net, or Doug Johnson, 571-282-3281 or llidoug@yahoo.com.



In Memoriam

We remember with fondness Jerry Persh, a long-time LLI member, who recently passed away.

Established 1996



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December
2008

חג חנוכה
Happy Hanukkah

عيد الأضحى
Happy Eid al-Adha

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Happy Holidays