



Wednesday, November 4
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.)



Our November Forum will feature Northern Virginia Community College's former president, Dr. Robert G. Templin Jr.

Community colleges help narrow the wealth divide in our country and promote economic mobility for the least advantaged in our society. Bob, a community college graduate himself, will share with us his work on achieving equitable outcomes for low-income students and minority students.

During his 13-year tenure, from 2002 to 2015, NOVA became Virginia's largest public institution of higher education, one of the nation's largest and most diverse community colleges, and one of the leading associate-degree-granting institutions in the United States.

Under Bob's leadership, the college increased its enrollment, expanded its revenues by more than

\$120 million annually, opened three new centers, and began a dozen major capital projects including much more classroom and laboratory space. He also led an alliance of business, education, healthcare, technology, and community leaders in creating a comprehensive strategy to double the region's output of registered nurses and allied health professionals.

In 2016, NOVA named its newest building on the Loudoun Campus the Robert G. Templin, Jr. Higher Education Center.

Currently, he is a Senior Fellow in the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program with a focus on the preparation of the next generation of community college leaders. The Aspen Institute is an international non-partisan, non-profit think tank.

Bob has served as president of Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology and was president of Thomas Nelson Community College. He is Director Emeritus of Achieving the Dream, a national community college reform network, and serves as a professor in the community college leadership program at North Carolina State University.

He served on the White House Summit on Community Colleges in October 2010. He has received local and national awards and recognition for his leadership in technology and was named by Washingtonian magazine as one of "Washington's 150 Most Powerful People" and "Washingtonian of the Year" for 2011.

Templin earned his associate's degree from Harford Community College, his bachelor's degree from Towson State University, his master's degree from Georgetown University, and his doctor of education degree from North Carolina State University.

The parents of 14 children, Bob and Carla Templin have three biological daughters and adopted 11 children from Korea, Brazil, and Guatemala, many with physical and learning limitations.



2005 Betty Lee Thatcher



Outreach History

As LLI/NOVA celebrates its 25th anniversary, Community Outreach Food Pantry folks would like to

look down memory lane. Efforts to support the community through food collections go back in time and have helped many of the same charities for which we still collect.

Carol Weber and Betty Lee Thatcher had volunteered for ACCA in Annandale and were very aware of the needs in the community. So when the Outreach chair was moving, around 2008, they stepped up to coordinate the monthly food pantry efforts at LLI/NOVA Forums. It took strong arms and wheeled carts to carry on the mission. When Betty Lee was unable to continue, Marianne Moerman helped carry on with Carol Weber. There were others prior to these women, including Jane Jones, but the LLI/NOVA newsletters do not give all the chronological dates of service of these caring people.

It is notable to point out that LLI/NOVA relied on its volunteers from the beginning, as now. If a member had an interest in a particular food pantry and was willing to be the contact and delivery

person, that pantry would be included on the monthly collection list. Some of the charity groups we assist at this time were served in the past also. Groups such as FACETS, ACCA, ECHO, and Food for Others have long been recipients of our collections. A number of local churches have food pantries and have been recipients.

Several years ago, Martie Klee realized there was food insecurity among some NOVA students. Some have families to support, sometimes with only one breadwinner at home. So, a liaison was formed with Dr. Manthrigae Jayatilake as a contact person for their pantry. Until the pandemic, the NOVA student pantry had been served by LLI/NOVA twice a year at Forum collections.

Now, this is your chance to see what you know about Outreach food pantry "trivia" and related LLI/NOVA history.

Take the FOOD PANTRY TRIVIA TEST.

1. Which pantry picks up directly at our Forum and takes the food to their pantry?
2. ECHO is a charity whose pantry we help each year. What does the acronym stand for?
3. Name three of the most commonly-requested food items.
4. What pantry primarily serves people living in the Fort Belvoir, Lorton, and Newington areas?
5. Name two churches whose food pantries we support.
6. Name two 501(c) (3) organizations we support with food.
7. How does LLI/NOVA choose the monthly charity to support?
8. How has LLI/NOVA helped the community during the pandemic?
9. Who worked with Outreach from 2008-2018?
10. As LLI/NOVA celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006, who was the Outreach coordinator?
11. This article has been submitted by your current two Outreach coordinators. Name them.

ANSWERS:

1. The NOVA Student Pantry
2. Ecumenical Community Helping Others
3. Peanut butter, jelly, pasta (Also canned goods and cereal.)
4. Lorton Community Action Coalition (LCAC)
5. St. Matthews United Methodist, Annandale United Methodist, St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic and Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic
6. ACCA, ECHO, FISH, FACETS, Food for Others, Bright Paths, LCAC, NOVA Student Pantry
7. A member of LLI/NOVA volunteers to deliver to the food pantry that person wants to sponsor.
8. LLI/NOVA continues to remind newsletter readers of the need to donate to the organization of their choice.
9. Carol Weber. She was assisted by Betty Lee Thatcher, then Marianne Moerman.
10. Jane Jones
11. Joyce Pomeroy and Betsy Pugin

Lunch Bunch group won the prize for the prettiest centerpiece.

While on the LLI/NOVA trip to the Great National Parks in June 2019, president Anna Dixon and Paul and Bonnie Hopley decided to revive the after-Forum Lunch Bunch. The Hopleys hosted the group at Kilroy's Restaurant in September 2019, and five luncheons were enjoyed before the pandemic began in March 2020. Scott Pinckney is the host if the Hopleys are traveling. With Paul and Scott having been presidents of LLI/NOVA, the attendees have a wealth of information available.

In just five meetings, attendance doubled from the first to the fifth one. Attendees suggest restaurants so we have a variety of locations and cuisines. When we are able to get together again in person, the Lunch Bunch will resume, and we invite you to join us to meet people, form new friendships, become involved as a volunteer, and have interesting conversations.



Elaine and John Bogart



THE LUNCH BUNCH

John Bogart joined LLI/NOVA in January 1998 and his wife, Elaine, joined in July 1999. Shortly thereafter, in 1999, they planned and hosted a Lunch Bunch after each monthly Forum. John chose the restaurant and let the membership know, inviting anyone who was interested to join for further conversation, a casual meal, and friendship. The Bogarts hosted the Lunch Bunch until 2013, which may be a record for continuous volunteering for one position within LLI/NOVA. Elaine died in 2015 and John in July 2020. At the 10th anniversary birthday luncheon, the

Cats Rule, Dogs Drool

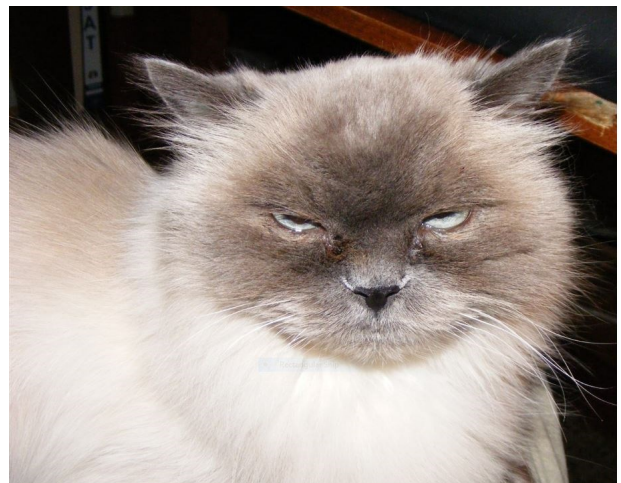


Photo by LLI/NOVA Member Phil Hodges



Appreciate Seeing Hope for the Future

Can we just get to 2021?

Hands-down, 2020 feels like the longest, most brutal year in memory. We endured a tumultuous election season, varying and often contradicting Covid-19 guidance, tons of hours secluded in scary isolation, and sad feelings for those knocked-back with economic losses.

Yet, within LLI/NOVA, we demonstrated that we are very resilient and that we coalesce effectively. Below are a few recent examples that we hope make you proud of your membership. I am certain there are many more.

- Mary Jablonski (and her copy editor) worked with Bonnie Hopler and Martie Klee to launch our monthly series featuring stories from those with long membership tenure. These columns are a wonderful read. We are considering compiling them in a publication for our Silver Jubilee Year celebration at the Springfield County Club in May 2021.
- Overcoming the misgivings of many, we set and met a lofty annual scholarship goal of \$25,000 for the 2020-21 program year. Thank you to Dick Martin and his scholarship committee for their hard work.
- Our membership levels have been largely stable throughout the Covid-19 pandemic . . . and we thank you! This juncture also warrants a vibrant and heartfelt shout-out to Bob Huley and Janice Viola: They work in an “always on” mode serving and coaching us.
- The showering of generosity and support is astounding. Members continue to step forth and volunteer. Barry Centini, Sara Shoob, Arline Sachs, Chuck Hulick, and many others are our “old faithfuls,” and we owe them special thanks for slogging through and adapting to a Zoom platform.

Other members have stepped forward without the slightest complaint and with unsurmountable energy and beneficence. Nan Peck is presenting an unprecedented series of 10 grab-bag classes this fall. There are several remaining. Try to catch one if you have not yet registered.

- Fritz Ernst and Loren Brandman quickly set out to fill vacancies and changed titles. Loren currently serves as Board Secretary but within the past three years she brought smartness and discipline to LLI/NOVA by serving as Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, and now Secretary. Fritz, a fairly new member, pivoted to Treasurer in a level-headed and masterful manner.
- Dick Robison has been our Wizard of Oz. He reconfigured our class delivery process from in-person to virtual, and early on he hosted 100 percent of our classes! A former pilot, Dick both built our Zoom airplane and piloted it at the same time. As we become more comfortable with the technology, others have stepped up to host presentations, most notably Nan Peck and Phil Centini.
- Then there is each of you! You have been unflappable and encouraging, and have grown exponentially. An article in the local Golden Gazette touts new Zoom training classes (ugh). Not us. We send you an email/url and you now click on with ease. LLI/NOVA members are now so seasoned that when they encounter the occasional poltergeist-type of Zoom glitches, most know to log out and log back in without a plea for help.

So, as a member said recently:

We Appreciate Seeing Hope for the Future.

Best, Anna



Bing Free Image

Celebrate and Anticipate



Bing Free Image

25 Years of LLI/ NOVA and \$25,000 LLI/NOVA Scholarships for NOVA students

As we look forward to the 25th anniversary celebration, and our agendas are hijacked by the coronavirus, we have had 100% anticipation and 0% celebration. Well, that has changed! Thanks to the generous giving of our members, LLI/NOVA has met its goal of \$25,000 to fund the student scholarships next year. Thank you to those who sent a donation and we welcome everyone to join in the celebration.

Susan Kanashiro, recipient of the 2020 LLI/NOVA Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship, writes the following to LLI members:

“I am writing to thank you for your generous LLI/NOVA Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship. I am immensely honored and grateful to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. Currently, I am pursuing an associates degree in Hospitality Management and I plan to add Culinary Arts as my second area of study.

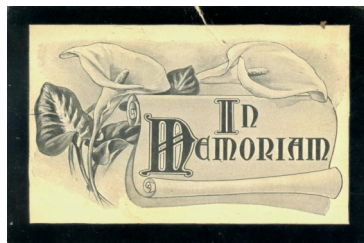
“Growing up, my parents taught me about the importance of a college education. They also have encouraged me to volunteer and help others, no matter the circumstance. Recently, the coronavirus pandemic has brought uncertainty and upheaval to our lives. In the first weeks, while in quarantine, I collected and delivered food and cleaning supplies to families in need and to immunocompromised individuals who could not leave their homes. That being said, I enjoy helping, even when the part I play feels small.

“In the future, I plan to have my own business and, thus, be able to give back to the local com-

munity that has embraced me since my arrival in the United States. Thank you so much for your generosity. By awarding me the LLI Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship, you are allowing me to turn my goals and dreams into reality. Finally, it will also motivate me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree.

Sincerely, Susan Kanashiro”

In Memoriam



Bing Free Image

Joyce Taormina, an LLI/NOVA member for seven years, passed away on Sept. 20. Joyce taught music, including piano and choral, for many years with Fairfax County Public Schools. LLI/NOVA was fortunate to have a member with Joyce’s skills. She played the piano at several sing-alongs and accompanied her LLI/NOVA friends at various parties, including the Valentine’s Day Social. She also was interested in various LLI/NOVA Study/Travel trips. Joyce was described in her obituary published in the Washington Post as “one of a kind, and that’s why anyone who knew and loved her will miss her so very much.”

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE



This year, in spite of the pandemic, we collected 100 books for R.E.A.D. (Read Early and Daily), an organization that reaches out to children in need from birth to eight years of age.

My sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this worthwhile endeavor, one that I consider so important--making a difference in a child's life.

Lynne Smaldone

HOLIDAY GIVING

We are sad that we will not be able to enjoy meeting in person at our annual Holiday Party this year and to continue a long-standing tradition of donating toys to the children at Bethany House. Each year, this organization appreciates your gifts.

During the pandemic and other difficulties today, the needs of families are increased. If you would like to make a donation to the Bethany House of Northern Virginia, you can mail it to 6601 Little River Turnpike, Suite 110, Alexandria, VA 22312. Note "LLI" on the memo line.

NOVA Happenings

On Oct. 28 NOVA will present its Annual Green Festival on "Waste and Its Impact on Habitats" via Zoom. See the flyer on page 9.

Register at www.nvcc.edu/green-festival/.

NEW MEMBER



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

Betsy Pond

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



Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing. ~ Vince Lombardi.

If you understand what you're doing, you're not learning anything. ~ Abraham Lincoln

The only really decent thing to do behind a person's back is pat it.

Just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

Always live within your income, even if you have to borrow money to do so. ~ Josh Billing

It isn't the ups and downs that make life difficult; it's the jerks. ~ Charlie Chaplin

I think the worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades. ~ Demetri Martin

This "killing them with kindness" is taking way longer than I expected.

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave - I say I'm having a very good day.

One day, you will be able to tell your grandkids, "I survived the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020."

You come from dust; you will return to dust. That's why I don't dust. It could be someone I know.

Attributions by www.bizwaremagic.com



Special Interest Groups

Exploring Cuisines



The Special Interest Group Foodies & Friends was founded in 2004 by three LLI/NOVA members who had a goal of forming new friendships. The idea was that sharing a meal was an alternative way to get acquainted with other LLI/NOVA members rather than just sitting next to someone in a class or attending a Forum. They hoped that through regular events, people would find common interests and perhaps engage in activities outside of “formal” LLI/NOVA events, perhaps forming permanent friendships.

The original name of the group was Adventures in Eating. Several years later, the group was renamed The Gourmands, and then in 2018 it was renamed again to the current Foodies & Friends.

From the beginning, there were few rules or limitations setting up the events. Members were and are expected to take turns planning events that in some way involve food, but not necessarily dining at a restaurant. Some of our unique events include hands-on and demonstration cooking classes, a tour of a supermarket followed by lunch at the market’s buffet, potluck picnics in parks or at a member’s home, afternoon tea, brunch rather than lunch, breakfast, and holiday celebrations (e.g. St. Patrick’s Day, Bastille Day).

The host has complete discretion on location, date, time, and number of attendees. An event typically attracts 10-14 people, but groups have ranged in size from as few as 4 to as many as 28. Success is never measured by the number of attendees. Each event is a success.

Over the years, the group has ventured across Virginia, hosting events in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Fauquier, and Arlington counties, plus in the cities of Fairfax, Alexandria, and Falls Church. One time the group even crossed the river and held an event at National Harbor in Prince Georges County, Md.

While most have focused on a weekday lunch, several events have been held on weekends. By rough count, the SIG has held about 170 scheduled events and explored nearly every cuisine in Northern Virginia at least once.

Although the most common cuisine sampled is probably Italian, L’Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls holds the record for most visits at five, closely followed by Le Cote d’Or in Arlington with four. Among the less common are Russian, Ethiopian, Indonesian, Persian, Cuban, Burmese or Myanmar, and Nepalese.



Some of our favorite restaurants no longer exist and are missed including Chez Andree in Alexandria, Heart in Hand in Clifton, and Le Canard in Vienna. However, the very first two restaurants we visited are still around. Our first luncheon in March of 2004 was at Four Sisters when it was located in the Eden Center. That restaurant now is located in the Mosaic District Fairfax. That was followed in April 2004 by The Esposito’s, which is still at the same location in Fairfax.

We have no idea what covid-19 will do to our normal activities, but by being creative such as limiting the number of people at a table and reserving more tables, and by social distancing, we should be able to get back to a sense of normalcy this winter when it is safer to eat inside. In the meantime, as Chair of Foodies & Friends, I encourage folks to set up their own events, venture out in safe conditions and enjoy lunching outdoors and in groups of four or fewer. For inside dining, look for spacious rooms, high ceilings for circulation and widely spaced tables. Interested "hosts" are encouraged to choose names from the email membership list and have their own events without going through the SIG.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at pvolz63@gmail.com.

And a big shout out to Bev P. without whose research I couldn't have written this piece!

-- Patti Volz



Bing Free Image

FAVORITE BOOKS CLUB

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. -- 1 p.m. (via Zoom)

Our selection this month is "The Fountains of Silence," a Young Adult novel by Ruta Sepetys.

Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco, Spain is living in silence and hiding a dark secret. Here we meet Daniel, an 18-year-old son of a wealthy Texas oilman, who wants to be a photojournalist; and Ana, trying to work her way to respectability as a hotel maid. As their lives intersect, they provide alternate lenses for viewing Spain under one of its most brutally repressive periods.

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone at lynne.smaldone@gmail.com.



Bing Free Image

Tabletop Games

Our proposal to play "Forbidden Island" via Zoom on Oct. 27 did not elicit enough interest to proceed. If you favor using Zoom for games while the pandemic persists, please suggest a game you think might work out. One possibility is Boggle, a word game.

The September Trivia Quiz was won by Ray Bednarsky with 9 correct answers, but don't be intimidated. Your newsletter editor only got 3 correct. We will play another round of Trivia via email to be sent out on Oct. 27; answers to be returned by Nov. 3. [Click here](#) and contact Mary Lu Bednarsky to be included in this email game.



Photo credit: Gary Robinette

NOVA's Annual GREEN FESTIVAL 2020

WASTE AND ITS IMPACT ON HABITATS

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
10:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Online – Via Zoom

Keynote Speaker: Chad Pregracke – 10:15 a.m.
Cleaning America's Rivers

Everything Counts / Waste Prevention / Habitat Loss – 11:30 a.m.

Richard Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist, VDGIF – 1:00 p.m.
Bats and Wind Energy Development

Raptor Lecture / Live Birds – 2:00 p.m.
Secret Garden Birds and Bees

Your Keynote Speaker: Chad Pregracke

Chad Pregracke, the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year, is proof that one person can make a difference. At the age of 17, Chad started on a crusade to clean up the Mississippi river. Since then Chad's hard work, vision, humor, and leadership has evolved into a cultural movement that had resulted in 11 million pounds of garbage being cleaned out of America's rivers with over 100,000 volunteers and dozens of global corporations coming aboard to lend a hand.

Chad's not-for-profit organization, **Living Lands & Waters**, was started in 1998 and has evolved to be the only "industrial strength" river organization like it in the world with a multi-million-dollar operation. Chad remains the driving force behind the organization and divides his time between living on a house-berge with his crew and living with his wife Tammy at their river home on the Mississippi.



Free and open to the public.

For additional information and to register, visit www.nvcc.edu/green-festival/

