

LLI's Day Trips Are Big Success!

Newseum and Tour of the Pentagon

by Helen Clark

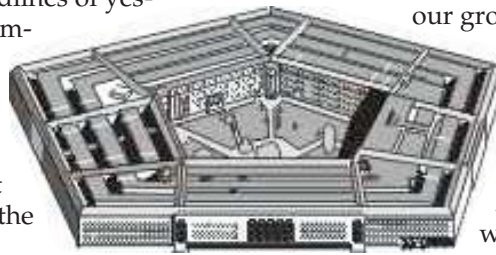
We had great weather and interesting destinations for our first day trip on July 15. First stop of the day was the Newseum in Rosslyn. Our self-guided tour started with a 20-minute high-definition video about great moments in history. We then continued on to the News History Gallery, which really takes you back to headlines of yesterday and makes you remember all the momentous news that has occurred during our lifetime. None of our group was brave enough to make a broadcast video on the next level, but the capability is there for those who might be courageous enough to try. We saw a special exhibit of Thomas Jefferson's handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence, which will be on display at the Newseum until September 30.

In Freedom Park, adjacent to the Newseum, is an outdoor exhibit and its centerpiece is The Freedom Forum Journalist Memorial, honoring journalists who have died while reporting

the news. The Park also includes segments of the Berlin Wall, a replica of a Cuban refugee kayak and a bronze casting of Martin Luther King Jr.'s jail-cell door in Birmingham, Alabama. This unique museum has something everyone will enjoy. We highly recommend your visiting it.

After the Newseum tour, we walked a short distance to the New Orleans House for lunch. As usual, the New Orleans House provided good food.

Our tour bus met us at the restaurant after lunch to take us to the Pentagon. After a short wait, our group was taken in tow by a 6'8" Air Force corporal. He took us on the tour of the building, which included the high-ranking corridors of the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as other high-ranking personnel. We viewed corridors



of walls lined with pictures of past and present commanders as well as a corridor honoring MIA's. We walked over a mile in the building, arriving back to the place where we started, said good-bye to our young escort and headed for home. It was a pleasant day with good company and interesting places to visit.

Members Enjoy Splendid One-Day Trip

by George Staten

Several weeks ago 25 LLI members and their guests boarded a chartered bus at the United Church of Christ across from the Annandale Campus and motored — chatting amiably all the way — to Fredericksburg in pursuit of leisure, cultural enrichment and goodfellowship.



We found it all on our August 11 adventure.

In the charming colonial city of 20,000, founded in 1728, we viewed from a motorized sightseeing trolley nearly three dozen points of interest in the historic area along the Rappahannock. Our group almost filled the brightly painted trolley. It came replete with hard, narrow and shallow wooden seats for our generally broad bottoms and a cheerful and witty driver-guide — a graduate of

News & Views

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Welcome to LLI's Fall Season!

The most exciting event as we launch our Fall 1998 semester is **LLI's Fall Kickoff**.

Mark your calendars! The **Kickoff** will take place **Monday, September 14 at 12:30 p.m.**, in the Forum at the Ernst Cultural Center, NVCC (Annandale). We plan a complementary light lunch, LLI video, exhibits of new and renewed classes, a chance to meet LLI instructors and sign up for classes and day-trips. We are inviting a large number of Northern Virginia residents who are not members of LLI to attend the **Kickoff** as part of LLI's outreach and awareness effort into the community. You will be receiving more information in the mail very soon, so **please reserve your place at the event as seating will be limited.**

NOVA's travel management program. Every so often he would stop the trolley and ring the nostalgia-evoking bell in front of old homes and out would pop a period-clad damsel. The guide called these hostesses "wenches" — a perfectly respectable label back then, he assured us. The ladies waved at us and we responded.

We were glad to dismount, however, with some of us gently rubbing our sore *derrières*, to have a welcome and tasty lunch at the Kenmore Inn. Afterwards, we inspected the grounds of the Chatham estate in nearby Falmouth. This Georgian-style mansion was built in the 18th century and later served as a Union headquarters during the Battle of Fredericksburg. We took a lot of pictures; it was great for photography because of its broad vistas and old gnarled trees.

Then came the *pièce de résistance* — Belmont: the Gari Melcher estate and memorial gallery. Son of German immigrants, this American painter (1860-1932), who studied art in Düsseldorf and set up studios in Holland, France and Germany, is recognized today for his society portraits, impressionist landscapes and domestic interiors.

The Melcher mansion is richly furnished with antiques collected by the Melchers during their long residence in Europe; many paintings by his European and American contemporaries hang on the walls. On the estate grounds there is a large stone building that the artist had built for his studio. It now houses the largest collection of Melcher paintings to be found anywhere. The docents were very knowledgeable and personable.

Since we just happened to arrive on what would have been Gari Melcher's 138th birthday, we were treated to chocolate cake at the information center. ("Great timing, Louise!") A number of our group made some purchases in the gift shop.

It was indeed a splendid trip. Many thanks go to Louise Sousk for her detailed planning, fine coordination, and smooth and cheerful execution. Give us more trips, Louise. Maybe some overnights?

Religion and LLI

by Knox Singleton

LLI IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS CHOICE for its members and the separation of church and state. Our bylaws state that persons will be accepted for membership without regard to race, national origin, sex, religion or economic status. However, recognizing the great importance of religious institutions in both local and world society, LLI has included earlier — and will again include in its 1998 Fall Program — a course on the world's religions. Extreme care will be taken to try to insure that both the presentation and discussion of the ten session course are kept as objective as possible. The goal will be to widen our understanding of the various religions and to promote our acceptance of people of other faiths regardless of our differences in belief.

LLI/NOVA — A Unique Pioneering Institution

by Knox Singleton

The Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia (LLI) is one of a steadily increasing number of learning-in-retirement institutions (there are now some 245 affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network in the U.S. and Canada). However, our LLI can claim a certain uniqueness and pioneering status among this group.

First, of the seven LIR's in Virginia, ours is the only one sponsored by a two-year community college. The other six are sponsored by four-year colleges or universities. This seems particularly appropriate, and something to be proud of, since two-year community colleges are oriented more directly to serving the local community. This has been LLI's orientation from the start.

Secondly, while the courses and activities of other LIR's are held almost exclusively on the campuses of the sponsoring institution, a large number of LLI courses and activities are held off-campus. The sites include community churches, local government centers and other facilities that are more readily accessible to older adults from a traffic and parking standpoint.

At the same time, with the LLI office in the Shuler Building and the Board of Directors and LLI committees meeting on campus, along with the holding of LLI's First Monday Open-House Program in the Ernst Community Cultural Center, a continuing on-site effort is made to integrate LLI's agenda with the overall mission of Northern Virginia Community College.

Many benefits are gained from this connection. For example, by LLI members' use of NOVA's resources and by LLI members' potential use as volunteer mentors and tutors to the many students of NOVA who can take advantage of the counsel of older adults. Taken altogether, LLI members can be quite proud of their organization's uniqueness and their opportunity of continuing to participate in LLI's pioneering growth.



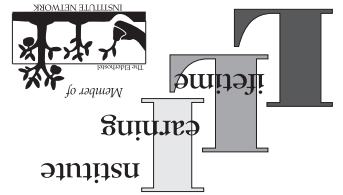
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News and Views — One Year Old

by Martie Klee

AS WE BEGIN THE SECOND YEAR of LLI's *News and Views*, we are happy to report our growth as an organization and the diverse curriculum we are presenting this semester.

As you will see in your Fall Course Catalog, LLI is offering 34 classes and has expanded its classroom facilities to 11 different locations! There are plans for at least three day-trips, a continuation of the video/discussion series, plus our first Monday Open House Lecture Series and a three-day trip. We have grown!

We look forward to seeing you at the *LLI Fall Kickoff* and sharing an interesting semester with you and other members. Don't forget, LLI is *YOUR* organization, so we appreciate any and all suggestions you can pass on to us.



Study? Travel!

by Alan Mayer

Planning for the third trip abroad by LLI'ers will get underway in November, but it's not too early to start thinking about it now. The first two trips were immensely successful. The first trip was to Istanbul, a cruise through the Greek Isles, and a visit to Athens. The second trip was to four Central European cities: Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest and Prague. Prior to making these trips, the group met and heard presentations on the planned destinations.

The third trip is anticipated for May 1999 (or thereabouts). Some discussion has focused on Spain, Portugal or both as our next adventure. If you are interested, sign up for our November meeting when we will start the planning process.

Reminder! **Signing Up for Classes**

When you sign up for classes, don't forget that our membership has grown, so you may encounter wait-lists. By the same token, please be considerate of your fellow-members when choosing classes. If you sign up for a class and then find you are unable to attend, please call the office and inform us that you are dropping the class. There may be another member waiting to take your place in the class.

LLI Looking Forward to National Conference

by Knox Singleton

Planning is underway for the Elderhostel Institute Network's 10th Anniversary conference of its 245 member institutes for learning in retirement. The event will take place in Washington, D.C., in late June 1999. Details about the date and site will be provided to us soon. An ambitious and exciting undertaking, this first ever gathering of all Network affiliates will celebrate the remarkable growth of the LIR movement over the past ten years and will consider the future of the Network. The conference will offer a stimulating program with prominent speakers, panels and skill-building workshops. We can expect to party a bit! We look forward to the fullest LLI participation possible.

President's Corner

by Knox Singleton

There is a lengthy Appalachian fable in which a mountaineer mother repeatedly admonishes the members of her family as she sends them to the country store for baking soda, "Now don't be fergettin' whatcher goin' fer." Of course, baking soda was not important for itself alone, but very essential for the baking of the bread and cakes to sustain and enrich their lives.

When we stop to think about what we are "goin' fer" as members of LLI, our first thoughts are likely to be those of increasing our education and enjoying the personal pleasures of being with like-minded peers. But these values, while quite significant in and of themselves, should also be seen in the same light as the baking soda — essential to our living more satisfying and productive lives in the communities where we live.

The countless socio-political, environmental and moral crises which surround us locally, materially and internationally cry out for more individual responsibility by older adults in helping to move us toward more wholesome communities. When we listen to Dante saying in the *Inferno*: "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in the face of moral crises maintain their neutrality," can we dare remain uninvolved? So let us use LLI as "baking soda" to broaden our knowledge and inspire us — according to our individual talents — to become the "bread and cake" of our local and world community for our own sake and that of all who will come after us.

Ancient Rome: People & Politics

Will Their Story Be Our Story?

by George Staten

From marble forums and all-weather roads to smelly condos; from blond, blue-eyed slaves to hearth-tending vestal virgins; from codified law to coliseum gore; from circuses and welfare to bacchanalian feasts and phallus-toting triumphs; the story of Rome — with its modern parallels — is a story worth telling. That story could be our story. Or as Cicero might have said: "*De nobis fabula narratur.*"



Using a variety of techniques, I hope to tell that story and lots more in my new nine-session course entitled **Roman Civilization**.* To be sure, I'll touch upon the major political events and military expansion, but not fail to

place emphasis on the fabric of Roman society (home life, role of women, education of children, people at work and play, arts and literature, law and religion) upon which civilizations rest — all the while connecting fact with fable, matching the sainted with the cruel, and relating Roman times to their antecedents and successors.

The course will profile life during the Republic and the Empire from Rome's founding in the 8th century BCE to the last Roman emperor in the West in A.D. 476. With the help of the class, we will identify the causes of Rome's decline. I plan on leading discussions on the applicability of the Roman experiences to contemporary challenges facing us and the Europeans. The rich and vibrant culture that Rome bequeathed to the Western World will be explored in some detail.

Prospective participants in this course will find the two-part feature on Ancient Rome in the July and August 1997 issues of *National Geographic* useful as is Donald R. Dudley's *The Civilization of Rome*, published in paperback and sold for under \$14.

(A tenth session of the class is envisioned as a Roman Holiday — part skit, part film, poor acting and great fun. With the optional participation of the class, our production will be held in the Forum [how fitting] for the LLI membership and their guests on Tuesday morning, December 8, in lieu of the usual first Monday speaker program.)

* This class (Course 8626) will take place every Thursday morning beginning September 24 in the Annandale United Methodist Church. There is a one-session LLI class on Graeco-Roman Mythology, to be given by one of my neighbors, Karin Echwald, on Tuesday morning, September 22, at the Little River United Church of Christ. It could serve as a complementary warm-up for our Roman Civilization course.

See you in class!