

Don't Miss the Debate on Northern Virginia's Sales Tax Referendum!

October 2002
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News & Views

Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia ♦ c/o NVCC Continuing Education ♦ 8333 Little River Turnpike ♦ Annandale, Virginia 22003 ♦ Phone (703) 503-0600 ♦ FAX (703) 503-5350

Delegates Vivian Watts and Jay O'Brien will square off at LLI's monthly Forum on October 7 discussing the pros and cons of the referendum on a sales tax increase to pay for transportation projects in Northern Virginia. Del. Watts (D-39th Dist.) will describe why voters should say "yes" on this ballot initiative. Del. O'Brien (R-40th Dist.) will urge voters to vote "no."

In addition to the sales tax issue, other initiatives on the ballot on November 5 include voter approval of two amendments to the State Constitution, two proposed State bond issues, and three County initiatives. Sample ballots and brochures will be available to help voters understand these issues.

Del. Watts served in the House of Delegates from 1982-1986. She was appointed Secretary of Transportation & Public Safety in 1986 and served four years in this position during Gov. Baliles' administration. She was reelected to the House in 1986 where she currently serves.

Del. O'Brien has served in the House since 1992, having successfully won election six times. Currently he is a candidate for election to a vacant seat in Virginia State Senate District 39, a new Northern Virginia Senate District created by redistricting in 2001.

As usual, we will meet in the Forum room at the Cultural Center on NVCC's

Annandale campus. Refreshments start at 9:30 a.m. and the legislators will speak shortly after 10:00 a.m. Following their informative talk there will be a brief presentation about the cultural offerings at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Art Center on NVCC's Alexandria campus.

Parking for the October 7 meeting is available in the Cultural Center's lot – look for LLI's signs. Call 703-503-0600 if you need further information.



Help! Course Leader(s) Needed

We need one or two volunteers to lead the popular "Great Decisions" course next spring. Tom Buchanan, who expertly served in this capacity for several years, is taking a break. Please call Program Committee Chair, Doris Balinsky (703) 941-1794, or President Lorin Goodrich (703) 425-9574, if you are interested. We would like to have two LLI members work as a team and share the responsibilities.

Attendance Commitment

If you signed up, please show up – for a class, a trip, or an event. If your plans change and you can't attend, please have the courtesy to call the instructor, the trip/event coordinator, or LLI's office and let them know you can't make it. Our registrants worked very hard to try and accommodate members' preferences for class attendance, but some popular classes are overbooked and have waiting lists, so if you signed up for a course and now find you won't be able to attend, please call and cancel and give someone else a chance to take your place.

The Lunch Bunch

Following the October 7 Forum, we will meet at the *Family Restaurant* in the Pan Am Shopping Center located at 3051 Nutley St., Fairfax, (703) 560-9322. The prices are under \$10.00, and the menu has a wide assortment of sandwiches, salads, Greek dishes, etc. Directions from NOVA: turn left on Little River Turnpike (toward Fairfax City), to Prosperity Avenue; turn right onto Prosperity at the Exxon Station and proceed to Arlington Blvd. (Route 50). Turn left on Arlington Blvd. and right on Nutley St. to the shopping center. The restaurant is located next to the CVS store.

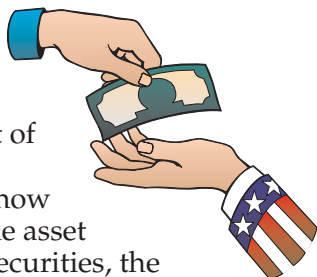
Explanation of Capital Gains Election

from Wilhelm, Monroe & Gallagher, Ltd.

Starting in 2001 there is a new tax rate for super long-term capital gains (super long-term is over five years). The new rate is 18 percent versus 20 percent on assets held over one year.

Assets acquired prior to 2001 generally do not qualify for this new rate. However there is an election to pretend an asset was sold on January 1 (a deemed sale) solely to start the five-year holding period and qualify that asset for the new lower 18 percent rate.

If the election is made, any gain from the deemed sale is recognized as of that date, and any loss realized is disallowed for all tax years. The election is irrevocable and is made by reporting the sale on your tax return with a statement of explanation. To make the election you will need to know the Fair Market Value of the asset on January 1, 2001 or, for securities, the closing market price on January 2, 2001 and your cost basis in the asset.



This election would almost never be advisable for a loss asset, an asset with a large gain or one with a holding period approaching one year. In addition to losing forever the benefits of unrealized losses, or recognizing gain but not cash from an asset, and losing any prior holding period in the asset, the taxpayer is being asked to gamble that any disadvantage from the election will be outweighed by gains realized over five years in the future that are so large as to make significant the two percent difference in the tax rate.

Check www.lowtaxsolutions.com for other tax-related information.

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President's Corner

The September 9 Forum meeting was a great kickoff to our fall season. Over 190 members and guests enjoyed a stimulating presentation by The Wilderness Society about protecting our treasured lands. Your quick answers to the quiz conducted by the Society's Jerry Greenberg were impressive – just another demonstration of your fervent quest for knowledge.

By the time you read this newsletter you will have been notified about your registration for the fall courses. Interest in our programs is growing, with almost 70 percent of our members registering for at least one course. We have attempted to honor most of your requests; if we were not able to do so, due to space limitations or a faculty member's desire to keep the class size at a certain level, your name has been placed on a waiting list. The priority system also was used. PLEASE CALL THE INSTRUCTOR, COURSE LEADER, OR THE LLI OFFICE IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A COURSE FOR WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. This helps those members who are on waiting lists hoping that a slot will become available.

We owe the Registration Committee much gratitude for completing an enormous task in a very short time. Over 1,000 registrations were processed under the able leadership of our Administrator Laura Charron, assisted by Mary Virginia Baynes, Debbie Birnberg, Mary Davis, and Martie Klee. Burt Greenstein made a major contribution to the effort by opening the large volume of correspondence that arrived on Mondays, much of it registration forms.

We hope to see you at the October 7 Forum meeting about the November election. It promises to be very informative. There are many items to consider, including the sales tax issue and a bond proposal for higher education under which, if it passes, NVCC stands to receive much-needed

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E-Mail: llinov@juno.com
Website: <http://communities.msn.com/LLINOVA>



Fairfax Symphony Has a “Deal” for You!

Once again the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is generously offering LLI members tickets to their individual concerts at a reduced rate of \$17.00. Call Mr. Qing (pronounced “Ching”) at the Fairfax Symphony office (703) 642-7200 — *on the day of the performance only* — to reserve your tickets. They can be picked up at the “Will Call” counter prior to the performance. Concert dates are: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 18, March 15, and April 19.

Calling All Songbirds!

We are looking for folks who love to sing, just for the fun of it. The group could decide how often to meet and what songs to learn and sing, such as good old-fashioned songs, Broadway show tunes, sad songs, funny songs, etc. You don’t have to read music, just enjoy singing along with your LLI friends. Who knows, we may establish the “LLI Chorale!” Interested? Call Martie Klee (703) 644-4931 or e-mail marthaklee@earthlink.net.

Lost...

We are missing a valuable piece of equipment from the office: A portable overhead projector disappeared over the summer (sometime after mid July). Would whoever borrowed the projector please return it so it can be used for future presentations.

...and Found

If you left your cardigan sweater behind following the September 9 Forum, please call the LLI Office (703)503-0600 to reclaim it.



Special Interest Groups

Bridge Group

The LLI Bridge Group meets twice monthly, i.e., usually the second and fourth Wednesdays, at the Mason District Government Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (bring a bag lunch). We have the Small Conference Room at that location reserved for Wednesday, September 25, 2002. However, **for the month of October, we will be playing the second and fourth Thursdays — October 10 in the Small Conference Room and October 24 in the Large Conference Room.** Please call Bob or Gladys Bucklew, Chairpersons, at (703) 631-7889 in advance of any date you wish to attend to confirm the meeting date for you and enable us to have sufficient cards and card tables for attendees. All are welcome. Note that if there are "extra" people, play is rotated (four hands per game) among all present. Also, most of our players are "singles;" you do not need a partner to attend. We hope you can join us!

Discussion Group – Everyone Welcome!

Date: Friday, October 4, 2002, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Ernst Cultural Center, NVCC, Seminar Room A

Topic: The Future of Health Care for Seniors. This is a topic that concerns us all as costs keep skyrocketing, especially for prescription medicines. Now we hear that HMOs may discontinue coverage or make it very costly. How satisfied are you with your health care coverage? Come and express your opinion about Medicare and prescription drug coverage. What do your children think will be available when they are older?

Information: Sue Swift (703) 698-8159

Favorite Books Club

The Favorite Books Club will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mason District Government Center (6507 Columbia Pike) from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Members vote on books the group will read, and one person leads the discussion each month. The selections for October and November are:

October 23: "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant;
Reviewer: Libby Burge

November 20: "Death Comes for the Archbishop," by Willa Cather; **Reviewer:** To be selected

There will not be a meeting in December. If you have questions, please call Nan Liner at (703) 824-9762 or e-mail NOL8@juno.com.

Financial Forum – Everyone Welcome!

Date: Friday, October 18, 2002, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Mason District Government Center, Main Community Room, Annandale.*

Topic: Information on bonds: what investors should consider when deciding to include bonds as part of their investment portfolio; the usual advantages and disadvantages of such investments, etc.

Presenter: Greg Snow, Vice President, Wachovia Bank
LLI Coordinator: Warren Hynes

* **Note:** The Financial Forum will return to the Ernst Cultural Center, Rooms A & B for the November and January meetings. As always, opinions expressed do not represent endorsement by LLI. We hope to see you there.

Spanish Conversation and Discussion Group

The group will meet weekly to practice language skills, improve vocabulary, and polish grammar.

Dates/Time: Thursdays, October 3 through December 12, 2002, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Location: Food Service Building (CM6), Chestnut Hill Room, NVCC Annandale Campus

Leader: Judith Diaz (703) 893-2048

Theatre Club

Late Nite Catechism – Sunday, September 29, 2002, 7:00 p.m. West End Dinner Theatre, 2615 Duke Street, Alexandria (in the Foxchase Shopping Center); \$26.10 per person. This is a "one-Nun" comedy that is interactive with the audience. The Nun is the teacher and we will be the students. It has been described as "hilarious," but with some serious moments, and time is allowed at the end of the performance for questions from the audience. LLI was able to obtain only 15 tickets, so there are just a very few left.

Man of La Mancha – Sunday matinee, October 20, 2002, 2:00 p.m., National Theatre, 1312 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC; \$49.00 per person. A thrilling new production of one of the best-loved musicals of all time is having its world premiere in Washington on its way to Broadway. Tony Award-winner, Brian Stokes Mitchell, will play Don Quixote, and Jonathan Kent of London's world-renowned Almeida theatre is the director. The score features such classic songs as "The Impossible Dream." We still have some tickets available but they are going fast, so get your reservation in as soon as possible.

Calendar note: We just received information from the National Theatre that **Les Misérables** will be in performance starting on November 27. LLI is obtaining tickets for the Wednesday, November 27 Matinee at 2:00 p.m. For this day only the price is \$16.50! Based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, *Les Misérables* is an epic saga that sweeps through three turbulent decades of 19th century France.

Membership Update

Correction

Clinton C. Hall, Jr. – e-mail address:
fwgdmn@ix.netcom.com.

New Members

Welcome! We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your talents and time to our various committees.

Mrs. Patricia Bates, 43761 Cog Hill, Ashburn, VA 20147; tel: (703) 858-0462

Mr. Maury Brown, 1704 Briar Ridge Road, McLean, VA 22101; tel: (703) 536-2879; fax: (703) 533-9393; e-mail: maurybrown@aol.com

Mrs. Elaine Cherry, 8616 Cottage Street, Vienna, VA 22180; tel: (703) 560-4860; e-mail: escherry@aol.com

Mr. John Cherry, 8616 Cottage Street, Vienna, VA 22180; tel: (703) 560-4860; e-mail: escherry@aol.com

Dr. Betty Cunningham, Apt. 802, 3800 Powell Lane, Falls Church, VA 22041; tel: (703) 671-0087; e-mail: bettynhilary@juno.com

Mrs. Betty DeAtley, 7260 Glen Hollow Court, Annandale, VA 22003; tel: (703) 256-6159

Mrs. Mary DeRose, 8600 Pepperdine Drive, Vienna, VA 22180; tel: (703) 573-7998

Alice Eichers, 509 S. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA; tel: (703) 979-2332

Mr. John J. Gossage, 8705 Clydesdale Road, Springfield, VA 22151; tel: (703) 978-9205

Mrs. MaryEllen Hertz, P.O. Box 745, Occoquan, VA 22125; tel: (703) 490-0980; e-mail: mhertz1@earthlink.net

Mrs. Mandy Holt, 3500 Georges Lane, Falls Church, VA 22044; tel: (703) 256-0618

Mrs. Bonnie D. Hopler, 5103 Cicero Court, Annandale, VA 22003-4107; tel: (703) 978-9381; fax: (703) 425-5515; e-mail: pbhopler@cs.com

Mr. Paul D. Hopler, 5103 Cicero Court, Annandale, VA 22003-4107; tel: (703) 978-9381; fax: (703) 425-5515; e-mail: pbhopler@cs.com

Dr. Dwight Hulse, P.O. Box 151360, Alexandria, VA 22315; tel: (703) 680-6330; e-mail: hulseoday@comcast.net

Anne Keightley, 5608 Hereford Court, Alexandria, VA 22315; tel.: (703) 971-5164

Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Barbara Kennedy, Apt. FV214, 7414 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, VA 22150; tel: (703) 913-0321; e-mail: bkenn67061@aol.com

Mr. Stanley Lichtman, 6038 Ridge Ford Drive, Burke, VA 22015; tel: (703) 569-4983

Ms. Mary O'Day, P.O. Box 151360, Alexandria, VA 22315; tel: (703) 680-6330; e-mail: hulseoday@comcast.net

Mrs. Janice W. Palenzuela, 7736 Huntsman Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153; tel: (703) 455-8239; e-mail: lpalenzuela@msn.com

Ms. Sally Pfeifer, 3281 Blue Heron Drive, Falls Church, VA 22047; tel: (703) 532-4285; e-mail: salmarie@starpower.net

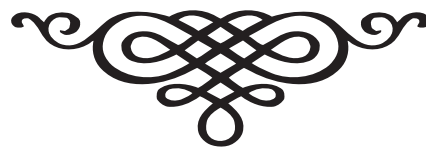
Mrs. Antoinette Ralston, 11716 Amkin Drive, Clifton, VA 20124; tel: (703) 978-2234; e-mail: ralclif@aol.com

Amalia J. Rodriguez, Apt. 902, 7802 Dasset Court, Annandale, VA 22003-4862; tel: (703) 354-0596

Mrs. Marjorie Runge, 7717 Jansen Drive, Springfield, VA 22152; tel: (703) 451-0589; e-mail: mrunge@earthlink.net

Carroll and Terry Swenson, 2008 Adams Hill Road, Vienna, VA 22182-2901; tel.: (703) 938-9101

Mrs. Joyce Taormina, 7912 Lobelia Lane, Springfield, VA 22152; tel: (703) 644-4103

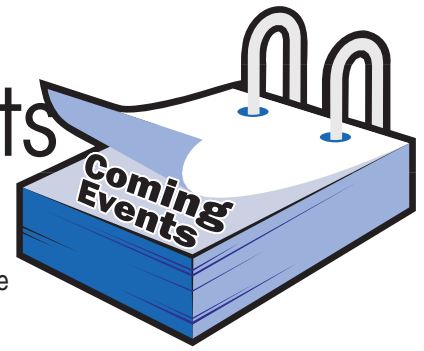


Membership Renewal

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your membership is current. Continued receipt of this newsletter and participation in LLI classes and events depend on your maintaining current membership. Membership is a bargain at \$100!



Calendar of Events



September 2002

29 Theatre Club: Late-Nite Catechism

October 2002

- 3 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 4 Discussion Group: Future of Health Care for Seniors
- 7 Forum
- 10 Bridge Group (Thurs. Oct. only)
- 10 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 11 Board Meeting
- 14 Newsletter Deadline
- 16-18 Trip: Frontier to Normandy — Fall tour to Southwest Virginia: Staunton: Woodrow Wilson's Birthplace, Museum of American Frontier Culture; Bedford: D-Day Memorial; Peaks of Otter; Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest near Lynchburg; tour and lunch, Historic District of Lynchburg
- 17 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 18 Financial Forum: Information on Bonds
- 20 Theatre Club: *Man of La Mancha*
- 21 Newsletter Mailing
- 23 Favorite Books Club
- 24 Bridge Group (Thurs. Oct. only)
- 24 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 31 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group

November 2002

- 1 Discussion Group
- 4 Forum
- 7 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 8 Board Meeting
- 11 Newsletter Deadline
- 13 Bridge Group (tentative)
- 14 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 18 Newsletter Mailing
- 20 Favorite Books Club
- 21 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 27 Bridge Group (tentative)
- 27 Theatre Club: *Les Misérables*

December 2002

(No December Forum)

- 5 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 6 Discussion Group
- 6 Trip: Gunston Hall Plantation buffet dinner and candlelight tour
- 11 Bridge Group (tentative)
- 12 Spanish Conversation/Discussion Group
- 13 Board Meeting
- 17 Holiday Luncheon, Fort Myer
("Winter Update" mailed in Dec., no January newsletter published)

January 2003

- 6 Forum
- 10 Board Meeting
- 13 Newsletter Deadline
- 20 Newsletter Mailing

February 2003

- 3 Forum
- 10 Newsletter Deadline
- 14 Board Meeting
- 17 Newsletter Mailing

March 2003

- 3 Forum
- 10 Newsletter Deadline
- 14 Board Meeting
- 17 Newsletter Mailing

April 2003

- 7 Forum
- 11 Board Meeting
- 14 Newsletter Deadline
- 21 Newsletter Mailing
- 28-May 2 Trip: Myrtle Beach, SC

May 2003

- 5 Forum
- 9 Board Meeting
- 12 Newsletter Deadline
- 19 Newsletter Mailing

June 2003

- 2 Forum
- 13 Board Meeting
(no newsletter published in June)

July 2003

(No Forum; no newsletter)

August 2003

- (No Forum)
- 11 Newsletter Deadline
- 18 Newsletter Mailing

September 2003

- 8 Forum
- 12 Board Meeting
- 15 Newsletter Deadline
- 22 Newsletter Mailing

October 2003

- 6 Forum
- 10 Board Meeting
- 13 Newsletter Deadline
- 20 Newsletter Mailing
- TBA Trip: New York City

November 2003

- 3 Forum
- 10 Newsletter Deadline
- 14 Board Meeting
- 17 Newsletter Mailing

December 2003

- (No Forum)
- 12 Board Meeting
("Winter Update" mailed in Dec., no January newsletter published)