

Reflections on LLI*

By J. Knox Singleton, President Emeritus

My personal experience led to a special interest in opportunities for continuing education for older adults. So, as chairman of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging in 1981, I appointed member Kathryn Brooks to chair an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of starting a LRI at GMU, patterned after the one we had learned about at American University. Eventually she obtained a suitable home for LRI/GMU at Tallwood on Roberts Road. The membership grew rapidly. Soon membership was forced to be limited due to the one location and limited parking. When it became obvious that the needs of the increasingly large number of retired persons in the area could not be met at that one location, an effort was made, without success, to get the Board to offer programs at one or more satellite locations.

So a meeting was arranged for 9/27/95 with Dr. Ernst, President, NVCC, to sponsor a program to meet that need. Dr. Ernst could not have been more receptive to the idea, but immediately he pointed

Continued on page 6

Forum, Tuesday, April 3

Ken Burns Returns to PBS with the "The War"— A WETA Preview

This fall, September 2007, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) will premiere Ken Burns' long-awaited seven-part epic documentary "The War." However, at our Forum on Tuesday, April 3, members of LLI will be treated to a preview of the Burns' upcoming telecast. WETA's Karen Kenton and Patricia Callahan will provide insight and background to clips from this new documentary series. Mr. Burns' series will explore the history and horror of World War II from an American perspective by following the fortunes of so-called ordinary men and women who were caught up in the greatest cataclysm in human history.

The Forum room is located on the second level of the Ernst Cultural Center, NVCC-Annandale. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Parking is available in the garage at an hourly rate of \$1.00. Please enter at the lower level on Center Drive.

Inside This Issue...

Reflections on LLI	1
Forum	1
Lunch Bunch	1
Calendar of Events	2
Board of Directors/Staff	2
Membership Update	2
Community Outreach	2
Special Interest Groups	3
Tackling Technology.....	4
Class Cancellations	4
Consumer Tips	5
Weather Cancellation Policy.....	5
Membership Renewal	6
LLI Picnic	6
Softball, Anyone?	6
Cards for Members	6
Coming Soon.....	6
May Newsletter Deadline	6
From the LLI Scrapbook.....	7
April Activity Calendar	8

Lunch Bunch

John Bogart jebogart@juno.com

Immediately following LLI's 3 April meeting, we will lunch at **Ribster's Restaurant** in Annandale. Ribster's features a variety of daily special meals at a modest cost. It is located at 7243 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Phone number is 703-750-2751.

Directions: From NOVA, turn right onto Little River Turnpike (Route 236) and proceed to the center of Annandale. Ribster's is located on the right-hand side. Watch for Ribster sign. There is plenty of free parking.

Calendar of Events

April

- 3 Forum
- 6 May newsletter deadline
- 13 Board meeting
- 16 Newsletter mailing
- 20 **Trip:** Supreme Court & Sewell-Belmont House

May

- 1 Forum
- 11 Board meeting
- 11 June newsletter deadline
- 21 Newsletter mailing
- 22-25 **Trip:** Long Island Tour (Hamptons, Montauk Point, Sagamore Hill, Winery)

June

- 5 Forum
- 8 Board meeting
- 13 **Trip:** Richmond (Lewis Ginter Gardens, Wilton Plantation Home, and Maggie Walker Home)
- 30 Wayside Inn & play "Only Me" at Shenandoah Theatre

July

- No Forum, no newsletter
- Board planning retreat
- 19 Black History Tour of Washington, D. C.

August

- 3 Sept. newsletter deadline
- 9 Embassy Tour-Russia, Sweden, and Indonesia
- 13 Newsletter mailing
- 28 Forum

September

- 7 Oct. newsletter deadline
- 14 Board meeting
- 17 Newsletter mailing
- 25-28 **Trip:** Plantations, Jamestown's 400 year anniversary, Wmsburg., and Yorktown

Note: Forum meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month except as indicated above. Board meetings are held on the second Friday of each month except July.



LLI Board of Directors

- President:** Norma Hughes
- Vice President:** Dick DiBuono
- Secretary:** Gina Trapp
- Treasurer:** Phil Runge
- Assistant Treasurer:** Warren Hynes
- Past President:** Lorin Goodrich
- President Emeritus:** J. Knox Singleton
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Deanna deMember 09
Dick DiBuono 07
Burt Greenstein 07
Paul Hopley 08
Norma Hughes 09
Doug Johnson 09
Curt Kornblau 08
Betty Mahon 07
Liddell McLeod 07
Don Reynolds 09
Phil Runge 08
Gina Trapp 09
Mary Underwood 08

* year term ends

Administrator: Laura Charron

Newsletter Staff

- Newsletter Editor:** Norma Jean Reck 703-938-4612 njreck@cs.com
- Graphic Design/Desktop Publisher:** Alfred Brothers
- Mailing Coordinator:** Colletta Hammond

Membership Update

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

Mary L. Backley 2940 Yarling Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042; 703-641-0526 MBarkley2940@aol.com

Max Bassett 13438 Point Pleasant Dr., Chantilly, VA 20151; 703-378-4021 cell: 703-795-9336 DGRBLUE@aol.com

Beau Bassett 13438 Point Pleasant Dr., Chantilly, VA 20151; 703-378-4021 cell: 703-795-9337 Bassett20@aol.com

Doug and Leona Johnson 2201 Mill Rd., Apt. 420 Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-549-0474 cell: 703-628-3115 LeonaDougJohnson@Yahoo.com

Linda Rosa 703-644-2982 llinda_rosa@yahoo.com

Mary Mark 6912 Vancouver Rd., Springfield, VA 22152; 703-451-3954

Robert R. Miller 13379 Fieldstone Way, Gainesville, VA 20155; 703-743-1868 rrmiller@att.net

Rheva Wilson 6017 Goldenrod Court, Alexandria, VA 22310; 703-719-5697 Rheva.Wilson@cox.net

New address/phone number

Libby and Marvin Burge 8923 Periwinkle Blue Ct., Lorton, VA 22079; 703-493-8725 lburge@cox.net

Community Outreach Food Program

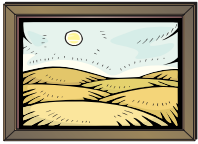
Salli Wise and Mary Ellen Firor

Following the April 3 Forum, Trudy Hynes, on behalf of Beverly Portman who will be traveling, will deliver LLI donations to Food for Others. Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia. Like all food pantry operations, they are constantly in need of food donations. Their wish list includes canned meats and tuna, peanut butter, jelly/jams, canned soup, vegetables, beans and fruit, macaroni and cheese, boxed meals, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, fruit juice, coffee, tea, sugar, and flour.

Reminder: Check those expiration dates on your cans and packages!

Thanks again to Arlene Gribben for delivering our donations to the Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church Food Pantry after the March 7 Forum.

Special Interest Groups



Arts & Smarts

Donna Trogler 703-751-8932
DTrogler@aol.com

All tours have a docent. Everyone is invited for lunch either before or after the tour.

February Trip: We had to cancel our trip to the Luce Center because of the bad weather and hazardous traveling conditions. We will reschedule that trip at a later date.

March 9: We are going to the Renwick Gallery and for a walk along Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. Our tour will start 12:30 p.m. Please be in the lobby of the Renwick at 12:15.

April 27: Lundner Restoration Center, National Portrait Gallery is scheduled. The Lunder Conservation Center is a place where visitors have the opportunity to see the conservators at work. The art conservator, art historian, and the conservation scientist work together to learn as much as possible about a work of art. They determine what materials and techniques the artist used, as well as discover previous treatments that may have been performed. Finally, they assess the condition of the artwork and decide what is needed to preserve it for the future. More details regarding time, travel directions will be given at the April 3 Forum Meeting.

May 28: Pending: Variations on America: Masterworks from American Art Form Collections.

June: Visit to the Museum of the American Indian. Details to follow.

July 20: The Phillips Collection for a tour of the Impressionists paintings.

August: Pending: Great Britons: Treasures from the National Portrait Gallery, London.

September: Pending: Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries at the Sackler.

Bridge Group



Bob or Gladys Bucklew 703-631-7889

We will meet April 11 and 25, i.e., the second and fourth Wednesdays, at the Mason District Government Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Please let

us know the date(s) you wish to attend, so that we can obtain sufficient number of card tables.

All are welcome! If there are "extra" people, Bridge play is rotated (four hands per game) among all present. You do not need to have a partner to attend. Most come as "singles." We hope you can join us.



Current Events Group

Shirley Lotz 703-978-2977
svlotz@cox.net

Date: Friday, 6 April 2007

Place: Mason District Governmental

Center

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Reconstruction in Iraq and New Orleans?

How much have we spent in reconstructing Iraq? How successful have we been?

How much have we spent in New Orleans? How successful have we been?

Do you think we can meet our foreign aid commitments and domestic needs?

What are your priorities?

Come if you want 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.



Favorite Books Club

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

On Thursday, April 19, the book club members will discuss *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom. It's the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that lasts a lifetime and beyond. It explores the question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one? This theme will certainly provide lots of fodder for discussion. *For One More Day* grabs you from page one. Mr. Albom is the author of a couple other recent best selling books, including *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

The meeting will be at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Gourmands

Mary Underwood and Sarah Bell

Monday, March 19: The Gourmands will go to Café Renaissance at 163 Glyndon Street, S.E., Vienna. 703-938-3311. Fine dining. Elegant ambience.

Contact: Eleanor Shubinski-Mosert 703-280-2542

Monday, April 23: Please note — The luncheon previously scheduled for Clyde's in Alexandria has been cancelled.

Contact: Rocky Nelson 703-938-3012.



Theater Group

Helen Clark (703) 573-1671 or

Virginia Fernbach (703) 751-8369

Last play in the Shakespeare Program

Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard. *Inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet, Stoppard blends dazzling, intricate wordplay and hilarious physical comedy in this true landmark of modern drama. If you are planning to attend, it is highly recommended that you be familiar with Hamlet.*

Mead Theatre within the Studio Theatre 1501 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Cost: \$38/person

Detailed directions will be in the next newsletter. If you misplaced the flier, please contact Virginia Fernbach or Helen Clark.



Walkabouts

Liddell McLeod 703-698-8366
liddell_mcl@cox.net

Join us Thursdays, April 5 and April 19, for a walkabout. For more information, contact Liddell McLeod.

Tackling Technology — Updating LLI / Services

Libby Burge

Just as the rest of the world has embraced technology out of necessity, LLI has come to rely on it to provide its members with improved, up-to-date services. We are most fortunate to have a number of computer-savvy members who generously donate their time and talent to keeping LLI technologically up-to-date.

Committee on Technology Named

In December, the LLI Board of Directors formed an Administrative Review Study Group for the purpose of staying abreast of today's rapidly changing technology. The technology committee's charge is to assess the need to update the current equipment in the LLI office and the software we are using. The committee members will study other possible administrative improvements as well. The committee members are: Dick DiBuono, chair; Laura Charron; Deanna DeMember; Bert Greenstein; Colletta Hammond; Paul Hople; and Phil Runge.

How Did It All Begin?

Originally, Memphis Norman created LLI's website. Three years ago, when Sid Sachs took over administration of LLI's website, he arranged—at no cost to LLI—a new link from MSN's free community network to his web space. To view it, go to <http://lli.nova.org> and click on Main Page.

How Do Members and LLI Benefit From Technology?

Gina Trapp, who serves as LLI Board liaison to the website, helps tend this invaluable tool for keeping members updated on LLI activities. With just a few clicks, members can review the current catalog and make your own personalized calendar of classes and meetings. You can view the latest offerings of the various special interest groups, learn the topic of the upcoming Forum, or preview future excursions offered by the trip and travel committees. The newest additions to the website have been the photos taken by Don Reynolds and Dottie Kilgore at the various LLI events. Now members can be internet stars.

Curriculum Coordinator Paul Hople works to stay abreast of the technology required by classroom speakers. Recently, he investigated and purchased for LLI a sophisticated projection system to augment instructors' computer presentations.

Martie Klee, LLI EIN liaison, has continued the relationship with the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN), which sponsored LLI in its early, formative years. Each month the EIN publishes an online newsletter. To access it, go to www.elderhostel.org, then click on Elderhostel Institute. Quite frequently, our organization's activities and innovations have been featured in this internet publication.

The creation and production of the *News and Views*, as well as other publications typically, entails an almost 100 per cent use of technology — PCs, scanning, digital camera, email, servers, fax, all linked electronically. The publication begins with individual members using word processing on their PCs to write their articles, which they email to Norma Jean Reck, the editor. She creates the newsletter using a PC and emails the final draft to Al Brothers, the graphic artist. He formats it using his computer and software programs and emails his final draft to Norma for proofing. Once copy is finalized and ready for printing, Al emails it directly to the print shop, where it is uploaded to a server, then routed directly to the copier. A hard copy is faxed to Norma for approval. Once approved the electronic file is emailed to the copier, which now prints out the several hundred copies that Colletta Hammond and her committee prepare for being snail-mailed to each LLI member.

Members Helping Members

Individual LLI members have also benefited from the expertise of our members who volunteer to share their technical savvy. Phil Runge, for example, has taught a series of well-attended classes on software and internet subjects. Members have had opportunities to upgrade their computer skills. Through the efforts of these tech-smart and experienced volunteers, LLI members have the opportunity to enjoy an up-to-date learning experience at either no cost or a minimal cost.

So, thanks to all of you for generously sharing your knowledge with us.

Class Cancellations

Mary Underwood and Paul Hople

The following classes have been cancelled:

7W29A The Identity Theft and Computer Security. Class scheduled for Thursday, March 22, has been cancelled due to illness in speaker's family. Class will be rescheduled for Spring or Summer. If it is rescheduled for Spring, registrants will be notified of the date, time, and location and will not have to re-register. If it is rescheduled for Summer, please plan to re-register. You can indicate that you were previously registered for the March class and you will be given priority.

7W21P Foreign Film Festival. Due to closing of Goodwin House to visitors for health reasons.

7W23P Second Basket Class. Combined with first basket class.

Consumer Tidbits

Want to Speak With a Human Being Not That Recorded Menu?

Go to www.gethuman.com

Logging on to www.gethuman.com and using its database will help you discover how to manipulate a company's recorded message and its (seemingly impenetrable) prompts to connect with a human being. The Gethuman 500 Database lists the following four categories for each company in its database: company name, grade (it allows you to rate each company), contact phone number, and get human customer service.

How to get a human customer service varies with the company. For some companies you press 0 at each prompt, ignoring messages. For others, press # at each prompt, ignoring messages. Others you say "agent" at each prompt, ignoring messages. And so on.

For example, you want to speak with a human being at AAA and you log on to the gethuman service Website. You will find the following information:

US automotive	grade	contact	get human customer service
AAA	F	800-222-4357	Press 0 at each prompt, ignoring messages.

Can That Spam!

In her February 23, 2007, Internet article "Can't Seem to Can Your Spam?" Shirley Rooker, Director, WTOP Radio Call For Action, offered the following suggestions for reporting and getting rid of spam:

- Forward any spam to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at: spam@uce.gov. Forwarding spam to the agency may not immediately stop it, but it will help FTC to compile a database that can be used to bring federal action against spammers.
- Let the FTC know if a "Remove me" request is not honored. To report it, go to www.ftc.gov and complete an online complaint form. Your complaint will be forwarded to FTC Consumer Sentinel database and made available to hundreds of law enforcement and consumer protection agencies.
- Send a copy of the spam to your internet service provider's abuse desk. Go to www.ftc.gov to find more information about this process. Be sure your complaint includes the full e-mail header from the spam.

To access the main listing of Ms. Rooker's Call For Action reports online, go to www.wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=63.

How Can Fairfax County Help With Consumer Complaints?

Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer

Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs offers an on-line database of the three-year complaint history involving businesses and landlords at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer.

You can search for companies by name or type of complaint and find out how each case was resolved.

According to an article in *Fairfax Connection* (Feb. 22-28, 2007), Fairfax County has eight investigators who handle consumer complaints if the transaction takes place within the county. You can file your complaint on-line or call 703-222-8435 to request a complaint form. Fairfax County's top six areas of consumer complaints are:

- Home improvements
- Landlord-tenant
- Cable television
- Automotive
- Utilities
- Retail



Weather Cancellation Policy

Except for bus tours, all LLI classes and other activities regardless of location are canceled when Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) close because of adverse weather conditions. LLI morning classes are canceled if FCPS announces a 2-hour delay in school openings. LLI afternoon classes are canceled if FCPS announces early dismissal. You will be notified about a schedule for make-up classes. For bus tours, contact the tour leader listed in the program booklet. Always check radio, TV, or the Internet for FCPS announcements when bad weather is imminent. LLI follows FCPS policy, not NVCC policy.

Reflections on LLI

Continued from page 1

out the serious limitations that NVCC has in faculty/staffing, classroom and parking space. I had anticipated much of this and told him about the idea of using churches to provide classroom and parking space during weekday, non-rush hours with our members voluntarily providing the faculty/staffing and modest membership fees to cover the costs. He was very pleased with the proposal and immediately picked up the phone to tell Dr. Haverkamp, Director of Continuing Education, to meet with us to see what could be done to help us through the use of the Forum for public meetings, a phone, and a desk on campus, etc. He also notified the public affairs director that she would be called on to issue the appropriate news releases.

After meeting with Dr. Haverkamp, a news release went out on 11/1/95 announcing a meeting to be held on 11/20/95 of all persons interested in the development of LLI/NOVA. About 50 persons came, and a steering group was formed to go forward. A Virginia State Charter was obtained on 3/13/96. On 3/27/96 another news release was issued calling for a kick-off meeting in the Forum to announce a sampler program to be offered in the Cultural Center during 5/6-17/96. The sampler program was well attended with enthusiastic participation indicating a strong interest in extending the program. A membership charter meeting was then held on 5/20/96; 38 persons signed up, and a 12-member Board of Directors with officers were elected. LLI/NOVA was on its way.

LLI has been successful through the first decade only because so many members have been willing to help in so many ways. And it will continue to be the exciting, creative, social, educational institution that it is through the next decade only if many members continue to work to make it so.

* **Editor's Note:** President Norma Hughes is traveling with LLI in South America.

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 Winter/Spring 2007 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.



LLI Picnic in September, But "Mum's the Word"

Bonnie Hopler 703-978-9381 pbhopler@cox.net

Another fun and festive picnic will be held in September at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. We'll announce the exact date in a few months, when a park reservation can be made. All members and guests are invited to attend.

To serve on the planning team, sign up at the volunteer desk at the monthly Forum or contact Bonnie Hopler.

Softball, Anyone?

Calling all ladies over 40 and all men over 50 who are interested in fun, fitness, and friendship to join Northern Virginia Senior Softball. They play Tuesday and Thursday mornings at local parks around the county from mid-April to mid-August. Spring practice is now underway. To join, call Dave at 703-524-5576 or Ted at 703-913-0028.

Do You Know a Member Who Should Receive a Card?

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

One of the benefits of LLI membership is making new friends. We like to show support for fellow members by sending a card to anyone who is ill or has suffered a loss. If you would like a card sent to someone on behalf of the LLI membership, please call or email Arlene Gribben. Include sufficient information so an appropriate card is selected.

Coming Soon...

Save the following dates!

- **June 30** Wayside Inn & play "Only Me" at Shenandoah Theatre
- **July 19** Black History Tour of Washington, D. C.
- **August 9** Embassy Tour-Russia, Sweden, and Indonesia
- **October 11** Supreme Court
- **October 27** John Wilkes Booth Escape Route
- **November 7** Marine Corp Museum

**Deadline for May newsletter
input: Friday, April 6.**

From the LLI Scrapbook...



Lunch Bunch coordinator John Bogart chatting with Louise Souk and Edward Mark at Old Country Buffet.

Community Outreach ladies at March Forum: Mary Ellen Firor, Arlene Gribben, and Salli Wise.

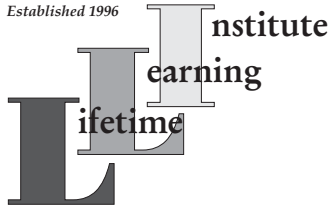


Gourmand coordinators for the February and March luncheons at Myanmar: Eleanor Shubinski-Mosert and Becky Perry.

A few of the Newsletter Mailing Group: Carol Jacinto, Margarita and Cappie Capetillo, and Colletta Hammond.



Established 1996



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Please Deliver by
March 27, 2007**

April

2007

Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.

1	2	3 Forum	4	5 Walkabouts	6 Discussion Group May Newsletter Articles Due	7
8	9	10	11 Bridge	12	13 Board Meeting	14
15	16 Newsletter Mailing	17	18	19 Walkabouts Favorite Books	20 Supreme Court/ Sewell-Belmont House	21
22	23 Gourmet <i>Cancelled</i>	24	25 Bridge	26	27 Arts & Smarts	28
29	30					