# News & Views

Volume 12 - Number 4

May 2008

# May Forum "Technology in the USPS" "USPS Battles Against Thieves & Swindlers"

Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Social Hour Starts at 9:30 a.m.

The U.S. Postal Service has on-line customer resources that are probably new or unknown to many of their customers. Rotonna Mullen of the U.S. Postal Service will instruct us on how to use these services from our home computer. Checking zip codes, printing labels, forwarding mail, and arranging for free carrier home pick-up are just a few of the many options she will cover. Postal inspector Michael Butler will report on the latest techniques to fight mail thieves, terrorists, and practitioners of fraud. Scams are everywhere and he will give sound advice for protecting us against them. He has many fascinating stories to share.

**Please Note:** *Parking is in the pay parking garage. Parking in the B and C lots is by permit only.* 

### **Lunch Bunch**

John Bogart bogartje@cox.net

The Lunch Bunch will meet at the *Pan Am Family Restaurant* after the Forum meeting on May 6. The restaurant, which features a wide variety of sandwiches and entrées at moderate to low cost, is located at 3051 Nutley St., Fairfax, in the Pan Am Shopping Center next to the CVS store. Phone number is 703-560-9322.

**Directions:** On leaving NVCC turn left on Route 236; turn right on Prosperity Ave. At Arlington Blvd. turn left then right on to Nutley St. to the shopping center on right. Take the second entrance (at gas station) and look for the CVS sign.

# Notice of Annual Meeting — Monday, June 2

Our LLI Bylaws call for an annual meeting of the membership to be held in May or June, on a date selected by the Board of Directors, to elect officers and members of the Board of Directors and conduct other LLI business. This year the Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the Forum speaker presentation on Monday, June 2, 2008 at the Ernst Cultural Center. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the slate of officers and members of the Board of Directors that is being offered to the membership by the Nominating Committee for consideration and voting upon at the Annual meeting. You also will be presented with the Board of Directors approved annual budget for the new fiscal year beginning this July 1 and ending June 30, 2009 our Institute's operating year. So, members, be sure to attend this important meeting to participate in the business affairs of our fine Institute.

### **Great Decisions 2008**

### Materials to be Donated to the NVCC Library

During the past two months some 25 members have enjoyed participating in the annual "Great Decisions" series (Course 8W36P). The videos will be presented again during the Summer 2008 session after which they will be donated to the college library for use by faculty and students. It would be appreciated if the participants in the Winter/Spring 2008 course could donate their books as well. Lorin Goodrich will be glad to collect your books at the May or June Forum meetings. Many thanks!

### **Course Cancellation**

Course 8W35A (Four Artists from the 19th and 20th Centuries: An Overview of Their Work and Backgrounds), which was to be conducted by WETA is cancelled. It will not be rescheduled.

### **Calendar of Events**

### May 2008

- 6 Forum (Tues.)
- 9 Board meeting
- 9 June newsletter deadline
- **19** Newsletter mailing

### June 2008

- 2 Forum (Mon.)
- 5 Trip: Frederick County, MD; Monocacy Aqueduct, covered bridges & Catoctin Iron Furnace
- 13 Board meeting

#### **July 2008**

- No Forum, no newsletter
- 10 Board Planning Retreat
- 15 Trip: Newseum & Lincoln Cottage

### August 2008

- 7 Sept. newsletter deadline
- 14 Trip: St. Michaels, MD
- 18 Newsletter mailing

### September 2008

- 2 Forum (Tues.)
- 12 Board meeting
- 12 Oct. newsletter deadline
- 22 Newsletter mailing
- 23-26 Trip: New York City

#### October 2008

- **7** Forum (Tues.)
- 10 Board meeting
- 10 Nov. newsletter deadline
- **18-25** Cruise: New England and Canada
  - 20 Newsletter mailing

#### November 2008

- **5** Forum (Wed.)
- 14 Board meeting
- 14 Dec. newsletter deadline
- 24 Newsletter mailing

### **May Spotlight Minute**

The Forum is a favorite activity of LLI members. Usually 150 or more members and guests attend the meetings each month. Many LLI volunteers, working nine months a year, are required to make each event successful. In May the spotlight will shine on the Forum Team and their contribution to LLI.



### **LLI Board of Directors**

President: Dick DiBuono
Vice President: Bob Huley
Secretary: Gina Trapp

Treasurer: Phil Runge
Assistant Treasurer: Warren Hynes
Past President: Norma Hughes

Members: Libby Burge 08\*, Deanna deMember 09, Dick DiBuono 10, Paul Hopler 08, Norma Hughes 09, Bob Huley 10, Doug Johnson 09, Liddell McLeod 10, Marianne Moerman 10, Barry Newman 10, Don Reynolds 09, Phil Runge 08, Gina Trapp 09, Mary Underwood 08

\* year term ends

Administrator: Laura Charron

**Newsletter Staff** 

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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.

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**Patricia** and **Edward Uhler**, zip code: 22151-2427



### **President's Corner**

**♦** his issue of *News & Views* is the penultimate (I love that word) one for our Institute's current operating year, which ends June 30. Knowing this has caused me to reflect on the matters before us as we head to the finish line. We still have many classes to attend in this, the Winter/Spring term of our educational program, and two more Forum meetings (Tuesday, May 6 and Monday, June 2), where we not only will be enlightened by excellent guest speakers but have the chance to socialize with fellow members – an aspect of LLI that I treasure and know that most of you do, too. In addition there is the upcoming bus trip on June 5 (see calendar) and all the activities of the many Special Interest Groups in which members participate. So, much remains to be enjoyed in the next two months. Looming ahead of us is the Annual Meeting of the membership at the Forum meeting on June 2. Official notice about that meeting is contained in this newsletter, as is an article presenting the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for members and officers of the Board of Directors for the next operating year. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee chair, Norma Hughes, and her committee members - Libby Burge, Arlene Gribben, Clint Hall and Bob Huley – for the work they did in developing their slate of candidates.

Well, to completely change the subject, the warmer weather of the spring season is upon us, the lawns are greening, the trees are leafing out and the golf courses are looking just fine. 'Tis the season for golf and gardening...how much better can it be? I wish you all a happy spring.

Dick DiBuono

### **Course Suggestions**

From time to time members have come up with ideas for courses they wish to present or for which they have a speaker, only to discover we are well advanced into the planning schedule for that semester. We have already sent the information for the Summer semester to press. This, then, is a call for subjects for the Fall 2008 semester. We do the planning in May, so we would need a brief course description, the speaker and bio, presentation facilities required, and preferred dates by early May.

Of course anyone willing to participate in the overall planning is invited to participate on the Curriculum Committee. Contact Paul Hopler at *pbhopler@cox.net* or 703-978-9381.

## Audiovisual Volunteer Needed

In order to attract good instructors LLI needs to be able to provide equipment they may need. More of our instructors require special audiovisual equipment for their presentations, which is not available in many of our facilities. Of necessity, LLI has purchased some and/or borrows other portable equipment that can be set up in any classroom. Currently, Paul Hopler transports equipment as needed to each classroom for the instructors' use. Paul has demanding responsibilities as the Curriculum Committee Chair and so is seeking a volunteer to assist him, one who has some experience with laptop computers, presentation projection, combo DVD players and projectors, DVD players, and overhead projectors for Vellum sheets. If you have experience with any of this type of equipment, please volunteer. The basic duties are: transport the required light-weight items to the class room, set up and test them for the instructor, and return them to storage after class. If you are interested or wish more information, contact Paul Hopler at pbhopler@cox.net or 703-978-9381

### **Renovating? Downsizing?**

Don't dump, instead recycle and donate items to the *Habitat for Humanity ReStore. ReStore* is a Habitat resale business that sells new and used building materials and home improvement items to the general public. Any building or remodeling material that's in good shape can be recycled through the ReStore, saving you dumping costs and providing a tax deduction as well. All materials are donated by local retail businesses, building contractors, suppliers and individuals, and are made available for safe to the public at 50% to 90% below retail prices. Thanks to the generosity of donors in our community, our warehouses contain hundreds of brand-new and almost-new refrigerators, dishwashers, and other appliances; top-of-the line carpet and tile; never-used cabinets, windows and doors, and much, much more, including hardware and tools. The ReStore will provide donation pickup services when scheduled in advance. Please contact their offices for more information.

There are two locations in the northern Virginia area, Alexandria and Manassas:

### **Habitat ReStore of Northern Virginia**

7770-A Richmond Highway (behind Gold's Gym) Alexandria, VA 22306 703-360-6700 / restoreinfo@habitatatnova.org

Prince William County ReStore 9506 Center St. Manassas, VA 20108 703-369-6145 / restore@habitatpwc.org

# Inside New York: "Designer City"

How about going "inside New York" and learn that there is more to this fascinating city than Rockefeller Center and Times Square?

Sign up for LLI's September 23 trip to New York while there are still some vacancies and gain special entry and behind the scenes views of many of the outstanding but under-exposed nooks of old New York; for example,

- ➤ Take a ride in a 125 passenger "cable car" from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island and look at the East Side from a 250' perch. Visit the Noguchi Museum and observe the sculpture and interior design genius of the Japanese-American artist.
- Check out the Cooper Hewitt Museum, the only museum in the U.S. devoted entirely to historical and contemporary design.
- Ride the waves of the Hudson River where New York began and view the panorama of Manhattan; tour Gracie Mansion, the home of Big Apple mayors for many years.
- Amble around the historic campus of Columbia University. Add Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts and you will have seen a lot of the 5 boroughs that might have been hidden from sight.
- ➤ Like modern art? How about visiting the famous and recently renovated MOMA (Museum of Modern Art).
- These are some of the attractions and highlights where admission fees are included the trip cost (they do have a way of adding up in Peter Stuyvesant's home town).
- Sign up now to reserve your place on this exciting 4 day, 3 night trip; call Louise Sousk 703-323-9144, or Betty Pogermon 703-323-7634.

Don B. Reynolds, New Yorker & LLI Historian

### **May Community Outreach**

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

The different organizations that LLI assists are most grateful for our community outreach program. Thank you all for your generous donations.

This month, the Koinonia Foundation, Inc. is the designated recipient of LLI's food donations. Koinonia is the local human services agency providing help to individuals and families in Greater-Springfield

communities, to include Franconia, Kingstowne, and Newington. Through their food pantry, they serve approximately 75 families each month with essential non-perishable food items, as well as household and personal cleaning supplies, giving away roughly 700 bags of food. In May, Koinonia is also a grateful recipient of food collected by the National Association of Letter Carriers during their annual food drive. This food drive produces a considerable volume of canned and boxed food. However Koinonia expects to serve even more needy families as their numbers increase and as spring and summer approaches, as the summer months produce a greater need for families who are feeding their school-aged children during their summer break. Therefore, the following food items are needed to help sustain their food pantry during the summer months: boxed cereals, peanut butter, jelly, and snacks. They are also in great need of paper products, household cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene products. Think "Spring Cleaning" and consider donating an item you would use to clean your home, yourself, or your family! The federal food stamp program only covers food items, therefore personal and/or household cleaning items are always in great demand. Thank you for providing hope and help to the individuals and families served at Koinonia. Norma Hughes will deliver this month's collection.

## Anyone For Handicrafts?

Several members have expressed interest in forming a new LLI Special Interest Group (SIG). Genevieve Thiem teaches knitting for beginners and others in the Fall and Winter/Spring sessions. While she will continue to teach, she does

not hold classes during the summer months. There are others in LLI who participate in various needlecrafts, i.e., crochet, X-stitching, crewel, needlepoint, etc. Would you like to join your fellow craftspersons on a regular basis to share your skills and interest in your particular craft? If so, please contact Mary Underwood (LLI Board

Member/SIG Rep) at 703-329-8391 or maryunderwood29@verizon.net. If there is sufficient interest (10+ interested members), she will pursue this with the Board. Also if there is anyone who would volunteer to coordinate the activities of this group, please let Mary know. She would appreciate your response by June 1.

### **Special Interest Groups**



determined.

#### **Arts & Smarts**

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

May 30, 2008: Tentative plans are for a group to go to the Phillips Art Gallery; program to be

**June 2008:** We are planning a tour to the National Gallery of Art for the exhibit *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul, Afghanistan.* 

Those on the e-mail list will be notified of the details. Others interested may call or e-mail Donna for information.



### LLI Bridge Group

Bob or Merry Huley 703-534-4819 (roberthuley@cox.net)

#### **May Play Dates**

In May, we will play on Wednesday, May 7, and Wednesday, May 28. Location: Mason District Government Center. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Reminder, we are also playing on Wednesday, April 30.

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 me, if you would like to attend (or for more information) so we can provide sufficient card tables.

March Results — Top three finishers on March 13 were Doug Johnson, Merry Huley, and Bob Huley; for March 26, they were Bob Huley, Donna Trogler, and Jeanne Nilsen. Congratulations to all.



### Community Theater

Helen Clark 703-573-1571 h.a.clark@worldnet.att.net

**Reminder:** Attend the play "Steel Magnolias" presented by the Providence Players

Date: May 4 at 2 p.m.

Place: James Lee Center (2855 Annandale Rd., Falls

Church

Senior Tickets are \$12; for reserved seats, email providenceplayers@cox.net or leave a voice mail at 703-425-6782; see their website www.providenceplayers.org.



### LLI Current Events Group

**Date:** Friday, 2 May 2008 **Time:** 10 am to 11:30 am

**Place:** Mason District Governmental Center, Small Conference Room

**Topic:** Is the US really a superpower or a superpower in name only?

◆ Do other countries listen to the US?

- ♦ Do we listen to other countries?
- ◆ Can we project military clout?

Join us to share your ideas or learn more about current events. We give all, who wish, a chance to speak. After an hour, we choose the next topic and then we have open discussion on any topic. For more information, contact Shirley Lotz (703) 978-2977 Email: sylotz@alum wellesley.edu. or Pete Schwarzkonf (703)

svlotz@alum.wellesley.edu, or Pete Schwarzkopf (703) 998-0769 or pschwarzkopf@verizon.net.



#### Favorite Books Club

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

**Date:** Thursday, May 15 **Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Mason District Governmental Center, Small Conference Room

Join us to review the book, "The Whistling Season," by Ivan Doig. The core of this fictional story takes place in the autumn of 1909 in rural eastern Montana. A recently widowed farmer with three sons is overwhelmed with raising his children on his own and running the family farm. He hires a housekeeper from the East, who brings her brother with her. Although an utter novice to the West, to children, and to teaching children, he becomes a teacher in the rural one-room school system. The core of the book's narrative is its themes of all the different ways of knowing and learning (inside and outside the classroom), at any age. The novel embraces the love for the landscape, the characters, and the events of the story. This book should be a joy to discuss.



#### **LLI Gourmands**

Alina Otal is hosting the May Gourmand event at her home on Wednesday, May 14. She has planned a Cuban Lunch. Space will be limited to 15. Please contact her at 703-323-9366

or aotal@hotmail.com if you wish to attend this luncheon. On Thursday, June 19, the Gourmands will have lunch at J. Gilbert's in McLean. Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser has planned this event. Please call her at 703-280-2542 or email at emosser@cox.net if you want to attend.



### Walkabouts

Liddell McLeod, 703-698-8366 (Liddell mcl@ cox.net)

Walks are scheduled at noon on Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 23. Please contact Liddell to add your name to the Walkabouts email list or call for locations and directions.

Deadline for June newsletter is May 9.

# **Board of Directors Candidates Announced**

#### For President: Dick DiBuono

A member of LLI for many years and the Board of Directors since 2004, Dick currently serves as president. Previous positions he held include vice-president and chairman of both the Budget and Finance Committee and the Administrative Review Committee. His past involvement has included serving on the Curriculum Committee and the 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee, chairing the Picnic Committee and as coordinator for several courses. A civil engineer by profession, Dick's other activities include golfing, genealogy, gardening, and travel.

### For Vice President: Bob Huley

Bob has been a member of LLI since 2004 and was elected to the Board of Directors in June 2007. He is currently serving as the Vice President (appointed to complete the term of Curt Kornblau) and as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Bob retired from the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as the Deputy Chief Information Officer, and his wife, Merry, also an LLI member, retired from the Fairfax County school system. Both Bob and Merry have been very active in the LLI Study Travel Program, taken many courses and local trips, and participate regularly in the Walkabouts. Bob is head of the Bridge Special Interest Group, is a member of the Trip Committee, and has assisted with several LLI activities (e.g., Picnics, Holiday Parties and 10th Anniversary celebration). Merry and Bob enjoy exercise and are avid bike riders.

### For Secretary: Gina Trapp

Gina Trapp joined LLI in the fall of 2004 after working at the Department of HUD for 30 years. She quickly became active in the organization by serving as a member of the Curriculum Committee and participating on various social event committees and assisting with LLI mailings. In June 2006, she was elected to the LLI Board of Directors as Secretary. She also assists the LLI Webmaster in maintaining our web site. Gina has a great fondness for and interest in animals, and hopes to expand her volunteer experiences to helping out at a local shelter.

### For Treasurer: Phil Runge (and 3-year term as Board Member)

Phil assumed the position of treasurer in February in 2005 after the previous treasurer moved from the area. He has been re-elected treasurer each year since then and is concluding a three year term on the board; he has accepted the nomination to serve a second three year term. Phil has been teaching computer related courses for LLI before he retired and became a member. He had a career with a national trade association, worked as an operations analyst for an energy development firm and has tutored at the university level in mathematics and science

### For Board Member (3-year term): Paul Hopler

Paul received his Bachelor of Engineering degree from Rutgers University in 1960 and his Masters of Engineering from George Washington University in 1975. He worked for the Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories and then finished his career in the Office of Secretary of Defense as Director of International Cooperative R&D Programs. He joined LLI in 2003, serves as chairman of the Curriculum Committee and served a previous term on the board. He loves traveling, technology and skiing and is active in his church and other volunteer organizations. Paul also enjoys spending time with his 10 grandchildren.

### For Board Member (3-year term): Mary Underwood

Mary has been a member of LLI since 2003, after retiring from the Federal government. She was first elected to the Board of directors in 2005. She has been a member of the Curriculum Committee for the past 3 years, and a member of the LLI Scholarship Committee for two years. Mary is the Board coordinator for the Special Interest Groups (SIG) and co-leads the Gourmands SIG.

### For Board Member (3-year term): Terry Brittain

Terry was born, raised and attended college in Texas. As a career military officer he served in numerous stateside posts as well as Germany, Vietnam, Korea, Panama, and Turkey. During this time he married Lynda and they raised two sons. Upon retirement from the Army he worked at the Annandale campus of NOVA as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. He and Lynda have been members of LLI since 2003. Terry is the current logistics organizer for LLI's Forum programs.

### For Board Member (3-year term): Moe Moser

Originally from Ohio, Moe received BA and MA degrees from Kent State University. After retiring from the Federal Government (Office of Personnel Management). he did consulting work with numerous Federal agencies for a number of years. Moe joined LLI a few years ago "to help keep my brain alive". He has enjoyed and learned from all the courses in which he enrolled. He volunteered to work with the Curriculum Committee, under Paul Hopler, and eventually became heavily involved in helping to find spaces where courses could be held. Now fully retired, he serves as the Space Coordinator with the Curriculum Committee and is serving, along with his wife Ginny and several others, on the Forum Committee under the leadership of Joseph Pincus. He looks forward to the possibility of serving on the board.

## From the LLI Scrapbook

# April Forum Souse



President Dick DiBuono thanking April Forum speaker Mark O'Meara.

### **Spotlight on the LLI Board of Directors**

Back row (l. to r.): Marianne Moerman, Doug Johnson, Libby Burge, Mary Underwood, Phil Runge. Front row: Gina Trapp, Don Reynolds, Paul Hopler, Deanna DeMember, Dick DiBuono, Liddell McLeod, Norma Hughes. Not pictured, Bob Huley and Barry Newman.





One-hundred and seventy-five (175) attended the April Forum; some attendees enjoying the break.



### Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia

c/o NVCC Continuing Education 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale, Virginia 22003

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## A Security System You Didn't Know You Had

The next time you come home for the night and go to put your keys away, think of this:

It's a security system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Start keeping your vehicle keys next to your bed on the nightstand when you go to bed at night. If you think someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside your house, just press the panic alarm on your vehicle key chain. Test it — it will go off from almost everywhere inside the house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key chain. It works if you park in your garage or driveway.

If your vehicle alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the home invader won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure the criminal won't like that. Try yours to make sure it works before you rely on it. Just know that you must press the alarm button again to turn it off.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your vehicle in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way.

