

## September Forum

**Tuesday, September 2, 2008, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Social Hour Starts at 9:30 a.m.**

*Ambassador John Dinger Gives  
Foreign Policy Briefing at LLI Forum*

How does our State Department cope with the swirl of diplomatic, political, and economic crises around the world? How are foreign policies made and refined to bolster friendships and relationships? How are these plans and policies put into action? Ambassador John Dinger will discuss many current issues and events as he explains the making of U.S. Foreign Policy and answers your questions.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Dinger is presently Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the State Department's Bureau for Intelligence and Research since December 2006. Other recent assignments include Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism from 2003 to 2005. He was Ambassador to Mongolia during 2000 to 2003, and has served in Johannesburg, Sapporo, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Rio de Janeiro, and London. Also among his numerous assignments, Mr. Dinger has been the Director of the State Department's Office of Press Relations. Ambassador Dinger will be prepared to respond to questions.

**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

Reservations have been made at **Skidoo's Restaurant** after the September 2 Forum meeting. The restaurant is located at 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22030. Phone: (703) 591-4515. The modest priced lunch menu features a wide choice of tasty food choices. **Directions from NVCC:** Left on Rt. 236, then right onto Prosperity Ave. From Prosperity, left onto Arlington Blvd. (past Fairfax Circle). The restaurant is next to a furniture store on the right side, just before Rebel Run St.

## LLI's Annual Picnic

**Wednesday, September 17 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Ft. Hunt Park, Pavilion A**

**Submit your reservations in accordance  
with the enclosed flyer.**

## Directions and More

### Directions:

**From the Beltway:** Driving the Beltway outer loop to Alexandria – take Exit 177A-B, Alexandria/Fort Belvoir (the exit immediately after Telegraph Road). Stay to your left on the exit ramp toward Old Town/Alexandria. At the traffic signal, go right onto Franklin Street. Follow Franklin Street to the next traffic signal at South Washington Street. Go right (south) onto South Washington Street, which becomes the George Washington Parkway, and follow the Parkway south for 5 miles; exit to the right at the sign marked "FORT HUNT ROAD/FORT HUNT PARK."

**From Ft. Belvoir:** Go North on Route 1 (Richmond Highway) and turn right onto Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway (across from the entrance to Woodlawn Plantation). When you get to Mt. Vernon, go around the circle onto the George Washington Parkway North. Approximately 3 miles from the circle follow the right exit to Ft. Hunt. At the second stop sign turn left toward the Park.

**Parking:** Look for Area A (Pavilion) parking lot (the first one you will see). There's parking for 150 cars and easy ground level pedestrian access from the parking lot to the Pavilion. There is handicapped parking up close to the Pavilion.

**General Information:** Because we have the use of the large roof-covered Pavilion, the picnic will be held rain or shine, barring a hurricane. If the weather forecast is for hot and humid conditions, consider bringing insect repellent, but we have found in past years that there is generally a good breeze which helps keep the temperature down, especially in the pavilion. Also, we will be eating at park picnic tables with bench seats; for your comfort, you may wish to bring your own folding chairs.

# Calendar of Events



## September 2008

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

## October 2008

- 7 Forum (Tues.)
- 10 Board meeting
- 10 November newsletter deadline
- 18-25 Cruise: New England and Canada
- 20 Newsletter mailing
- 28 Baltimore Basilica, Russian Orthodox Church and Museum of American Visionary Art

## November 2008

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

## December 2008

- 4 Holiday Party
- 12 Board meeting
- 12 Trip: Candlelight dinner at Gunston Hall

## January 2009

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

## February 2009

- 3 Forum (Tues.)
- 6 March newsletter deadline
- 13 Board meeting
- 16 Newsletter mailing

## March 2009

- 3 Forum (Tues.)
- 13 Board meeting
- 13 April newsletter deadline
- 23 Newsletter mailing

## April 2009

- 7 Forum (Tues.)
- 10 May newsletter deadline
- 10 Board meeting
- 20 Newsletter mailing

## May 2009

- 5 Forum (Tues.)
- 8 Board meeting
- 8 June newsletter deadline
- 18 Newsletter mailing

## 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.**

**Ellen Brugger**, 5250 Valley Forge Dr. Apt 403, Alexandria VA 22304-5610, 703-370-8520, arkeoellen@yahoo.com

**George Chalou**, 3348 Sheffield Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042, 703-573-7769, chalou@erols.com

**June Chalou**, 3348 Sheffield Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042, 703-573-7769, chalou@erols.com

**Janet Mary Hall**, 7918 Timarand Ct., Lorton, VA 22079, 703-339-5308, Work-202-787-4325

**Doris C. Lawrie**, 8321 Epinard Ct., Annandale, VA 22003, 703-425-5128, dadulaw@verizon.net

**Gladys Swartz**, 8936 Periwinkle Blue Ct., Lorton VA 22079, 703-646-5706, gladysne@cox.net

### Updates

**P. Sue Abell**, 14919 Jaslow St., Centreville, VA 20120-1538, 703-830-1552, psabell@mac.com

**Herb Barlett**, 7406 Spring Village Dr. Apt 401, Springfield, VA 22150, 703-451-4371, herbert.barlett@ericksonresident.com

**John Bogart**, Bogartje@cox.net

**Elaine Cherry**, elainecherry@cox.net

**Kathryn Dennehy**, 4320 Forest Hill Dr. # 212, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-3345

**Charles Gorsey**, 1100 Dranesville Rd., #119, Herndon, VA 20170, 703-466-9355

**Molly and William Hewitt**, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Apt. 727, Alexandria VA 22311, 703-578-1080

**Shirley Lotz**, 7406 Spring Village Dr. Apt 401, Springfield, VA 22150, 703-451-4371, shirley.lotz@ericksonresident.com or svlotz@alum.wellesley.edu

**Merry Macke**, merry.macke@verizon.net

### LLI Board of Directors

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Deanna deMember 09, Dick

DiBuono 10, Paul Hopley 08,

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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

**Newsletter Co-Editors:** Norma Hughes 703-960-6279 nah.home@verizon.net

and Lynda Brittain 703-425-8240 brittain@cox.net

**Graphic Design/Desktop Publisher:** Alfred Brothers

**Mailing Coordinators:** Colletta Hammond and Kathy Hall

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## President's Corner

Greetings! I hope you are having a wonderful summer season.

As I begin my second year as your president I am happy to report to you that our Institute, which now is in its fourteenth year, continues to thrive and grow. We owe this fine state of affairs to the many members, past and present, who have volunteered their time, knowledge, experience and energy to LLI. *We are a volunteer organization.* I ask that all of you volunteer for at least one project, committee or activity during the course of this operating year, for that is what keeps us thriving as a leading lifetime learning organization in northern Virginia. Liddell McLeod, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be happy to sign you up for one or more of the many ways in which you can assist.

LLI has continued to function actively, despite this being the summer vacation season. One hundred eighty seven members – nearly half our total membership — registered to attend the 19 courses in our summer term education program. Counting the members who serve as course coordinators, *more than half* our membership is participating in the summer program. In July your Board of Directors held its annual Retreat to review the state of our Institute and to plan for this and future years. Also in July, our Curriculum Committee completed preparation of the 38-course fall term program and published the Fall 2008 catalog which you already have received in the mail. You will also find two very interesting day-trips, planned by our Trip Committee, listed in the catalogue. Reminder – registration deadline is Tuesday, September 2. That happens to be the date of our next Forum meeting at which we will hear about foreign policy matters from former ambassador and U.S. State Department official, John Dinger. As usual our monthly business meeting will follow the guest speaker. Our Picnic Committee has a wonderful day planned for us on Wednesday, September 17 at Fort Hunt Park – be sure to sign up to attend using the flyer/registration form contained in this newsletter. Finally, I encourage you to participate in one or more of our seven Special Interest Groups. Not only will you find them offering an activity that interests you but also an opportunity to make new friends among your fellow members.

I look forward to this being a vibrant year for LLI.

*Dick DiBuono*

## September Community Outreach

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

It's September and time to resume LLI's monthly food collection for area organizations that provide assistance to low-income families. Your generous donations in the past have been recognized and greatly appreciated by these groups.

The recipient of LLI's September food collection is FACETS (Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transitional Services). FACETS offers a full spectrum of services including basic needs assistance, financial assistance, counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs, permanent supportive housing, and transitional supportive housing. In addition, FACETS serves low-income and impoverished families living in three public housing communities in Fairfax County in a unique effort to prevent homelessness in the future.



Their mission is to build strong families and safe communities by improving the quality of life for impoverished men, women and children through comprehensive programs addressing physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

The following non-perishable food and beverage items are needed: Pop-top soups, pastas, crackers — single serve packs, peanut butter and jelly, canned tuna and chicken, bottled water, juice boxes, granola bars/healthy snacks, cereals.

Needed hygiene items include: shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, disposable razors

Thank you for your donations. Bonnie Hopley will deliver the food this month.

***Deadline for  
October newsletter  
is  
September 12.***

## Something Spooky About Our LLI Picnic Grounds

*Continued from the June issue of News and Views*

**R**esearching a Washington Post article, Oct. 6, 2007 by Petula Dvorak, we learned that regular interrogation of captured Nazi military, mostly submariners and scientists, was the business of this Nazi POW and scientist detention center known secretly as "P.O. Box 1142". This made sense since there were Nazi submarines captured along our Atlantic Coast, and many German scientists were whisked away from the possibility of being added to the Russian team.

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***More than 4,000 Nazis without good intentions for the USA were held and questioned at Ft. Hunt.***

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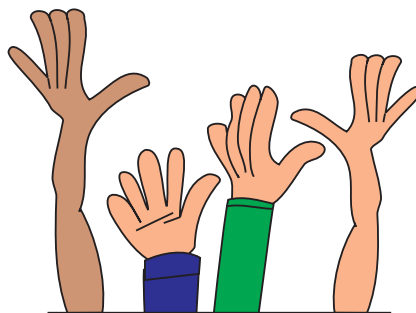
However, it is difficult not to suspect that Bonnie's 2007 "Spytacular" picnic theme was nothing more than a coincidence. More than 4,000 Nazis without good intentions for the USA were held and questioned at Ft. Hunt. Not unlike much of today's enemy prisoner handling, things weren't entirely Geneva Convention regulated, but the team of questioners claimed there was no torture, and much actionable intelligence was obtained via a game of ping pong and well intentioned "bull sessions."

The cadre of interrogators who kept these secrets for the last half of the 20th Century, to be disclosed only in 2007, were all naturally in their 80s and 90s when honored publicly last October. About two dozen of them returned to Ft. Hunt. Included was MIT physicist Henry Kolm, 90; Arno Mayer, 81, Princeton professor of European History and nuclear policy lawyer, Peter Weis, 82. The US interrogators naturally were chosen for their command of the German language and family roots; they all agreed their interrogation methods were humane.

While you're at the picnic, remember to visit the flag and historical plaque that reminds us all of the strategic background of World War II activity at Ft. Hunt. More details on this fascinating subject can be found on the Park's website at [www.nps.gov/gwmp/fort-hunt.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/fort-hunt.htm), click on *Ft. Hunt – the Forgotten Story*.

*Don Reynolds, LLI Historian  
WW2 ETO History, 1945*

## LLI Needs Your Talents



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

Lifetime Learning Institute exists only because our members contribute countless hours of their time and hard work. Member volunteers organize and execute all the activities available in LLI: finding and scheduling teachers, Forum

speakers, and materials; planning travel; coordinating special interest groups; keeping membership informed; managing finances. While we recognize one superhero Office Administrator, let us always remember the continuous need for a mighty force of volunteers drawn from all of us who enjoy the benefits.

How can you help? Stop by the Volunteer Table at the Forum to learn more and sign up, or contact Liddell McLeod, Volunteer Coordinator, at [liddell\\_mcl@cox.net](mailto:liddell_mcl@cox.net).



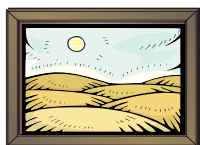
## Date Discrepancies

There are several errors in the calendar pages of the Fall Catalogue. Please note the following:

- The Forum on September 2 is missing from the catalogue calendar
- Course 8F01A, *A City of Funerals*, the catalogue calendar lists the date as Sept. 3, the correct date is Oct. 6, as indicated in the course description.
- Course 8F18P, *Visit to Pohick Bay* on November 19 is missing from the catalogue calendar, please refer to the course description.



# Special Interest Groups



## Arts & Smarts

Donna Trogler 703-751-8932 or  
e-mail [DTrogler@aol.com](mailto:DTrogler@aol.com)

We are planning a trip to the Library of Congress for a docent led tour on September 19, 2008. This has not been confirmed; more information will be available at the Forum meeting. For questions, please call Donna.



## LLI Bridge Group

Bob or Merry Huley 703-534-4819 or  
703-489-9045 ([roberthuley@cox.net](mailto:roberthuley@cox.net))

**August and September Play Dates** – In August, we will play on Wednesday, August 27. In September, we will play on Thursday,

September 11, and Wednesday, September 24. Location: Mason District Government Center. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a bag lunch.

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 that we can provide sufficient card tables.

**May, June, July, and Semi-Annual Results** – This is our catch up report. Top three finishers on May 7 were Janet Goodrich, Mary Underwood, and Merry Huley. Top three on May 28 were Janet Goodrich, Nelva Berend, and Bob Huley. June 4 results are not available due to a recording lapse on the part of the SIG leader, but it was a great game. July 16 top finishers were Arline Sachs, Bob Huley, and Nancy Sherman. For the July 30 game the top three were Bob Huley, Lynda Brittain, and Nate Rosenbaum. Finally, for the January-June period the top four overall were Bob Huley, Lynda Brittain, Mary Underwood, and a tie between Janet Goodrich and Jeanne Nilsen. Congratulations to all.



## LLI Current Events Group

**Date:** Friday, September 12, 2008 (2nd Friday for September only)

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

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

**Topic:** Election Issues

- ◆ What are the important issues from the conventions
- ◆ What are the party issues?
- ◆ What other factors are at play? (race, age, ??)

**NOTE:** This is a one time change to the second Friday, not our usual first Friday, of the month. Join us 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. We meet in the Small Conference Room of the George Mason District Government Center.

For more information, Email Shirley Lotz at [Shirley.Lotz@Ericksonresident.net](mailto:Shirley.Lotz@Ericksonresident.net) or [svlotz@alum.wellesley.edu](mailto:svlotz@alum.wellesley.edu) or call (703) 451-4371.



## Favorite Books Club

Arlene Gribben 703-569-0357 or  
e-mail [arlenegribb@aol.com](mailto:arlenegribb@aol.com)

**Date:** Thursday, September 18

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Well, Summer is falling behind us and we're ready to get back to sharing our views and thoughts about some more interesting books. The September book for review is *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar. This fictional story takes place in modern-day India and is witnessed through two compelling and achingly real women characters. The novel shows how the lives of the rich and the poor are intrinsically connected yet vastly removed from each other. It vividly captures how the bonds of womanhood are pitted against the divisions of class and culture.

All are invited to participate in the discussions. You can be an avid (I'll be there no matter what) member like some of us, or come to the meetings when a particular book interests you.



## LLI Gourmands

Anne Austin and Martie Klee planned a "mini-vacation" for 20 Gourmands at the Moon Bay Coastal Cuisine restaurant at the Gaylord National Resort on Wednesday, July 30. It was the first time

that most of us had been to the new resort. A number of the group took the water taxi over from Alexandria. It was an enjoyable afternoon. On Thursday, September 11, Martha Siemering is hosting the Gourmands for Appetizers at her home. Please contact Martha at (703-569-2450) or E-Mail: [martsiem@cox.net](mailto:martsiem@cox.net) if you are interested in this event.



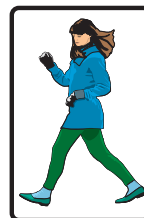
## Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers, a newly organized Special Interest Group, meets monthly to share an enjoyment of needlecrafts. Bring a small project to work on and perhaps learn new techniques, get help on a problem, discover a new source of

supplies or classes, and chitchat with fellow LLI members.

Any type of needlecraft is welcome – knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, needlepoint, etc. Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Mason District Governmental Center.

The next meeting is Friday, September 12, 2008, 1:00 – 2:30 pm in the Small Conference Room of the Mason District Governmental Center. For further information, or if you are new to the group, please contact Bev Portman (703) 560-6740 or [firse@juno.com](mailto:firse@juno.com).



## Walkabouts

Liddell McLeod, 703-698-8366  
([liddell\\_mcl@cox.net](mailto:liddell_mcl@cox.net))

Walks are scheduled at noon on Thursdays September 11 and 25. Please email Liddell to add your name to the Walkabouts email list or call for locations and directions.

# LLI Alaska Trip

**T**wenty-two members of the Travel/Study Group recently returned from a wonderful visit to Alaska. Everything you hear about it, size, scenic splendors, cleanliness, *etc.*, is true.

We began our adventure by boarding the Holland America ship *Zaandam* in Vancouver on Sunday, June 8. We sailed the Inland Passage between British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Our first port was Ketchikan in the heart of the temperate rain forest where we took a guided walk through the woods. Saw lots of wildlife. Next was Juneau, the glacier-locked capital of Alaska, the Mendenhall Glacier and the Crystal Gardens. Then on to Skagway the jumping off point for the gold rush, where we boarded the White Pass Yukon railroad. You can't believe how they shoehorned the tracks along the narrow vertical canyons. The next two days we cruised Glacier Bay and College Fjord, generally surrounded by glaciers. We were told that many of the glaciers are retreating but some are still advancing. Altogether the cruise was very satisfying. The food was good and abundant, our cabin spacious and service from the staff excellent.

On Sunday we docked at Seward and took a small boat trip through Kenai Fjord. We saw orca, sea otters, sea loins and hundreds of birds. The cutest were the Puffins who gorged on so many fish that some of them couldn't even take off. Monday morning we toured Seward and their excellent nature museum. That evening we were in Anchorage. Tuesday we boarded the train the McKinley explorer for our trip to Denali Park. Holland America provided rail cars with domed seating for everyone upstairs with the dining room underneath. We spent two days in Denali. On the first day we toured the visitor center. The next day we took a six-hour tour of the park. We boarded modified school buses and our guide drove us about 60 miles into the park. We traveled only half way to Mt. McKinley. It was a cloudy day, so like many other visitors, we never saw the mountain but we did see wildlife. That afternoon we took the train to Fairbanks. On Friday we toured an old gold dredge place and panned for gold. That afternoon we took a three-hour river

ruise on the Chena. We stopped at a dog sled training place and a native village. We had various native guides tell us about their culture. All told I think we traveled four miles on the river. It was very enjoyable. Saturday was June 21, the longest day of the year. In Fairbanks the sun actual set for about two hours. They have a huge street fair with crafts, music and food.

That ended the basic trip but the Huleys and Johnsons stayed on for four extra days. We took a nine-passenger van that followed the pipeline up to Prudhoe Bay. The road was mostly paved as it was the original construction road for the pipeline. We drove through spectacular scenery, especially the Brooks Range. The accommodations were the old construction trailers. Rustic but clean. We saw Dahl sheep, a musk ox, caribou, *etc.* Deadhorse, in Prudhoe Bay, is the operating town for the pipeline. Most of the wells are many miles from it and it serves as the supply center and start of the pipeline. All the drilling is down in winter, 40-60 below!! Now they were bringing in supplies and repairing the equipment.

We had a wonderful time in Alaska. It is a land of free spirits although they are very patriotic. The space is immense, the air is crispy clean, the people are exceptionally friendly and the scenery is spectacular. I could deal with all the daylight but I don't think I could handle the long dark winter.

*Doug and Leona Johnson*

## Study/Travel Program

I hope everyone has had a great summer. After this year's wonderful trip to Alaska: WHERE ARE WE GOING IN 2009? Come and join us in planning our Travel/Study program for next year. We will meet at the Mason District Govt. center on Columbia Pike on Monday's Sept. 8 and 15 from 1:30 to 3 pm. For more information, contact Doug Johnson at 703-628-3115, or [lldoug@yahoo.com](mailto:lldoug@yahoo.com).



# From the LLI Scrapbook



*2008 Scholarship winner with Committee Chair, Doris Balinsky.*



*Winners of LLI's 2008 Scholarship and Merit Awards with LLI Scholarship Committee Doris Balinsky, Marianne Moerman, Deanna DeMember, and Bruce Mann.*

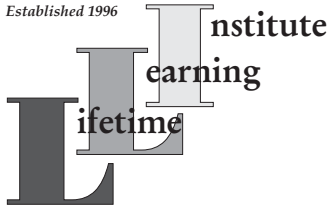


*Newly elected 2008-2009 LLI Board Members. Front (l. to r.): Doug Johnson; Marianne Moreman; Moe Moser; Dick DiBuono, President; Phil Runge, Treasurer; Paul Hople; Barry Newman. Back: Bob Huley; Terry Brittain; Deanna DeMember; Norma Hughes; Gina Trapp, Secretary. Not pictured: Don Reynolds, Liddell McLeod, and Mary Underwood.*

*LLI members and friends on board the cruise ship to Alaska.*



Established 1996



## Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia

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### Course 8F29A "Man and Nature" Has Been Rescheduled

Due to Professor Michael Anderson's teaching workload at NVCC Alexandria campus his LLI course "Man and Nature" has been rescheduled to the following Mondays: October 6, 13, 27, and November 3, 1:30–3:00 p.m., Little River United Church of Christ, Room 8.

### Fall 2008 Curriculum Catalogues

The catalogues were mailed Saturday, July 26. Although registration ends September 2, members are encouraged to register early to increase their chances of getting into the classes they desire. Be sure to give the priority you want for the classes, *i.e.*, only one 1st choice, only one 2nd choice, *etc.* Due to high demand, some classes are being repeated, and those wait-listed earlier will be given priority; but members must re-register.



**SEPTEMBER**  
**2008**