



Volume 25—Number 1

News & Views

January 2021

Wednesday, January 6

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

Social Zooming: 9:30 a.m.

Announcements: 9:50 a.m.

Presentation: 10:00 a.m.

(Click on the URL in the email.)



Patient Centricity in Pharma during the Time of COVID-19

In the healthcare industry, patient centricity has always been at the center of everything, but throughout this pandemic, the urgency for prioritizing patients' needs has never been greater. At the Jan. 6 Forum Dr. Kalahn Taylor-Clark, Vice President and Global Head of Patient Insights, Outcomes and Innovation at Sanofi will highlight how the pharmaceutical industry is responding to COVID-19— not just in the development of needed vaccines and treatments – but also in its response to the stark health inequities that are even more prominent during this time.

Dr. Taylor-Clark possesses demonstrated pharma expertise, and she will provide insight on how the pandemic has impacted patient centricity in

pharma and will offer specific steps that individuals can take to engage in clinical innovation.

Learning objectives for this talk will be to:

- Understand how the pandemic has impacted clinical development and trial operations;
- Highlight key trends that are emerging in patient centricity in response to the pandemic; and
- Identify specific ways each of us can be more involved in accelerating clinical innovations.

Dr. Taylor-Clark holds a BA in International Relations from Tufts University, a Master's in Public Health from Tufts School of Medicine, and a PhD in Health Policy and Political Analysis from Harvard University. She was also an Assistant Professor and Senior Advisor to the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason University; Director of Health Policy at the National Partnership for Women & Families, a non-profit public policy organization; and a Research Director at The Brookings Institution. She has lived in Japan, Ghana, and France and currently resides in Arlington, VA.



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President's Message

We say it so often it becomes banal: Each day when we wake, life is full of unknowns and new beginnings. This is especially so as we open our calendars to begin a new year. There are COVID-19 vaccines on the horizon, but most deem it prudent to delay many plans to at least mid-2021.

The LLI/NOVA Board thanks every member for being supportive and constant as we pivoted and navigated 2020's challenges. Even so, in 2020, we gained 21 members compared to 45 in 2019. Our yearend membership is down by 15 (347 vs 362). Our five-year average is 374, a level we consider optimum due to classroom availability and managing group outings/events.

Please understand, our members are not just statistics. LLI/NOVA is a member-managed and volunteer-driven organization except for one unbelievably valuable part-time administrator, Janice Viola. This alignment forges a large amount of bonding and pushes us to develop new skills. As a result, we give a heartfelt shout-out when new members join and/or when some come forward to volunteer.

Similarly, whether at a Board meeting or via group emails, we bow our heads upon learning that a member has faced new maladies or has lost a loved one. In 2020 11 members died. Although they are no longer with us, their contributions continue to enrich.

We begin 2021 with more unknowns than usual as we develop a "new normal." Dick Robison, Curriculum Committee Chair, notes many of the positive outcomes of having Zoom delivery (e.g., higher class participation, no snow days, no class wait lists). On the other hand, we long for human connectivity in the classroom and during day trips or study-travel, and even encountering young students on campus. Classes and events are part

of our mission, and we hope to resume them as soon as the college deems it safe for us to do so.

During the interim, we continue with our class delivery via Zoom but still introduce new events. For example, consider "traveling from your armchair" by joining some or all our Sunday evening Fireside Chats with newly arrived students/young professionals from nine countries. See more information elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website's home page.

Best, Anna



Volunteers Needed

Please contact Loren Brandman, at loren.brandman@gmail.com or 703-801-8419 if you are willing to support either of the following efforts.

Nominating Committee members:

The 2021 LLI/NOVA Nominating Committee is looking for members interested in joining our committee, which is charged with identifying a slate of candidates to serve on our 15-member Board of Directors for next year (beginning July 1). From the comfort of your home (Committee meetings/discussions will be via Zoom, telephone, and email), you can bond with new members on this short-term project. We promise this will be a mutually rewarding experience.

Members to join the LLI/NOVA Board of Directors:

Every LLI/NOVA member brings value, unique insights, experiences, and networks to our all-volunteer, member-driven organization. We encourage you to lend a helping hand to maintain, improve, and diversify our organization by serving on the Board of Directors next year. We need skills and interests including publicity, IT, budgeting and analysis, outreach and diversity. Willing-

ness to take on ad hoc tasks and a positive, can-do attitude are also helpful. The Board meets once a month via Zoom, although in-person meetings may resume in the future.

Off the Beaten Path

International Zoom Fireside Chats

Beginning in mid-February, LLI/NOVA members have an opportunity to get to know 28 visiting students from nine countries under the U.S. State Department's Community College Initiative Program, administered by NOVA. Each event begins with a country overview PowerPoint presentation by the students before the LLI/NOVA host opens the event for discourse.

The students, who will arrive Jan. 8, receive scholarships to spend up to one academic year at a U.S. community college. Our meetings with them, called Zoom Fireside Chats, will begin Feb. 14 and will continue Sundays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. until Apr. 18, *except March 28 and April 4.*

Participants hope to strengthen English language proficiency and immerse themselves in the culture and day-to-day life of Americans. They plan to participate in community volunteer service projects, thereby enhancing local host communities. They also will serve as leaders on their host campuses and make public presentations as part of International Education Week and other community engagement activities.

After completing the CCI Program, participants return home with a deeper understanding of U.S. culture and new skills; and are expected to contribute to the economic development of their home countries.

This is a unique opportunity to get to know the students on a personal level and to hear about the hardships they willingly faced for an opportunity to learn in the United States.

Do not miss this chance to engage while their impressions are fresh. As Mark Twain said: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

LLI/NOVA will be hosting Zoom Fireside Chats on Sundays from 7-8:30pm.

Per the below table, Anna Dixon and Patty and Richard Steelman will be the overall hosts but would appreciate assistance from other LLI/NOVA members, especially those who have interest in these countries.

Given the rules the students are under and for the safety of our hosts, NOVA intends for all interactions with the students to be virtual until at least spring break.

Contact Megan Juneau in NOVA's Office of International Education and Sponsored Programs if you want to host one of these students: 703-323-2354 / mjuneau@nvcc.edu.

(LIST AS FOLLOWS)

| Date 7-8:30pm | Country | #of host country reps. | Participants' Selected Profession |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Feb 14 | Colombia | 5 | Computer Systems, Bus Mgt, Early Childhood Ed |
| Feb 21 | Indonesia | 7 | Computer Systems, Bus Mgt, Early Childhood Ed; Social Media |
| Feb 28 | Ghana | 3 | Computer Sys; Construction Mgt |
| Mar 7 | Cote d'Ivoire | 2 | Early Childhood Ed; Social Media Mktg; |
| Mar 14 | Dominican Republic | 2 | Early Childhood Ed; Computer Sys |
| Mar 21 | India | 3 | Journalism; Early Childhood Ed; |
| Apr 11 | South Africa | 4 | Automotive Tech; Computer Sys |
| Apr 18 | Turkey & Bangladesh | 2 | Web Dev & Design; Computer Sys |

LLI/NOVA Scholarships: 2020 Program in Review

LLI/NOVA received 15 percent more in donations from members in 2020 than we did in 2019. Members responded generously to the urgent needs of NOVA Community College students in this unusually difficult year.

For this reason, LLI/NOVA set an ambitious target of \$25,000 for its scholarship program. The target commemorates this year's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of LLI/NOVA's founding. Following our 2020 fundraising letters to members, and with some scholarship funding left over from 2019, we achieved our goal and our President, Anna Dixon, presented a \$25,000 check from LLI/NOVA to NOVA President Anne Kress in November.

In 2020, LLI/NOVA's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors decided to try linking our scholarship program to the NOVA Educational Foundation, a campus-based foundation that awards scholarships funded by Northern Virginia companies and non-profit organizations to NOVA students. Our trial year with the NOVA Educational Foundation was successful and we decided to continue our relationship with the Foundation. Advantages of linking our scholarship program with the Foundation's, compared with implementing the scholarships ourselves, include: (1) professional scholarship management and screening of applicants; (2) a stronger relationship between LLI and NOVA; (3) simpler application procedures for students; (4) a much larger number of applicants; and (5) greater awareness of LLI/NOVA and our scholarships among NOVA students, faculty, and administrators.

Students responded with gratitude to our scholarship awards. In previous newsletters, we have published some of the "thank you" letters we received from our 2020 scholarship recipients. The following are the final two of that group.

Melat Sima, who received an LLI/NOVA Academic Scholarship, wrote:

"Thank you very much for giving me this scholarship. It will help and inspire me to do more in my next steps. I also want to let you know that your money will do something great. It means a lot to me. Thank you again!"

Nada Odeh, recipient of an LLI/NOVA Leadership Scholarship, wrote:

"I am writing to thank you for your LLI Scholarship. I was very happy to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am a computer science major at Northern Virginia Community College. After getting my associate degree I'm planning to transfer to George Mason University to get the bachelor's degree in computer science. I'm planning to pursue a career in artificial intelligence upon graduating. I am a first generation college student, maintaining 4.0 GPA, and a mother of 3 kids. The third kid being just one year old. Currently I am also an honor student and was placed on NOVA Dean's list in the Summer of 2019 which is the most prestigious award and is reserved for students who have a GPA of 3.5 and higher. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. I am one step closer to that goal. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me."



New Members

Welcome, New Member: We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.

Dana Kress Beales

Barbara McMahon

[At any time, if you have established a member ID and password, you can go to the Member Directory to search for contact information for a current member. At the website llinova.org click on the "Member Area" and then "Member Directory."]



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In Memoriam

Long-time LLI/NOVA member **Martha (Martie) Klee** passed away on Nov. 28. While not a charter member, Martie joined LLI/NOVA in September 1996 along with her husband, Chuck, and was involved in nearly every aspect of the organization. She worked in the office as a volunteer before an administrator was hired and helped out thereafter. She published the first newsletter, served on the Board of Directors, and helped plan many special events, including the 10th-anniversary luncheon celebration at which she also served as the emcee. At the time of her death, Martie was co-chair of the planning team for LLI/NOVA's 25th anniversary in 2021.

Martie was part of the early Trip Committee chaired by then-LLI/NOVA member Louise Souss and served as co-chair for a time. Among other events, Martie led an overnight trip to the World War II Memorial in Bedford, Va., and a tour of historic Lynchburg. She also guided a trip to the Doylestown, Pa., area that focused on authors and artists. Highlights included a visit to the homes of Pearl Buck and James Michener as well as the first botanical gardens in the United States, near Philadelphia.

Two LLI/NOVA offerings that were particularly close to Martie's heart were the Favorite Books Special Interest Group and the "Richard Risk's Poetry and You" classes. She was a SIG member from its inception. In April 2017, she arranged for a member of her local writers' group, Urmilla Khana, author of "Boundaries of the Wind," to speak to the SIG members. Martie also taught two of the American Best Sellers classes, one on "The Good Earth" by Pearl Buck and one on "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe. She also arranged a number of outings as a member of the Foodies & Friends SIG.

As a long-time and very active member of LLI/NOVA, Martie made many contributions that will be missed. One member described her as ". . .

warm and welcoming with a smile for everyone she met. She made everyone feel at home."

LLI/NOVA member, **Gretta Xander**, passed away on Oct. 29. She and her husband Tom joined LLI/NOVA in 2009. Gretta soon found and pursued several areas of interest. As a history buff, she particularly enjoyed classes presented by the National Park Service as well as NOVA history professors. She also participated in several of our nature walks at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Gretta loved attending teas and was a fan of the LLI/NOVA Tea Tasting & Presentation classes arranged at a chef's home in Great Falls. Outside of LLI/NOVA, she also arranged group teas at various tea houses throughout the area.

Gretta, originally from Southern California, taught elementary school for 20 years. She loved to travel as evidenced by the fact that she visited approximately 120 countries, some while on vacation and some while her husband was in the military. She was very active in the Welcome Club of Northern Virginia as well as Northern Virginia Neighbors. In addition to gourmet dining, Gretta had a great interest in and appreciation of antiques and led a variety of day trips around the region for those with similar interests.

Administrators



The administrative duties of LLI/NOVA began with its inception. Initially, volunteers under the direction of Martie Klee performed all the work. Laura Charron joined in January 1997 and began working on membership in the office with fellow volunteers Phil Reeves and Louise Sousk. Then Laura began helping with the program and catalog.

The organization grew rapidly and it became apparent that a paid administrator was necessary. Laura Charron was the first administrator, beginning in June 1997. When founder Knox Singleton stepped down as president in 1999, he credited Laura as “a master of office administration who has been heavily involved in helping to keep program development, membership and course registration records in order, as well as preparing and handling of publications and mailings, keeping office equipment in proper operation, and handling telephone, fax and email communications.” Laura left the position in 2015.



Laura Charron with (l) Dick DiBuono and (r) Phil Runge

Colletta Hammond, a long-time volunteer in the office, helped with all the administrative duties, including mailing the newsletter and filling in when Laura was away. Martie Klee continued to volunteer when extra hands were needed.



Janice Viola has been administrator since September 2015 and is known for her work ethic, attention to detail, and friendliness to all. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University, she was a programmer analyst at Booze Allen Hamilton. When she and her husband became the parents of three sons, Janice chose to remain at home but volunteered extensively in her community.

LLI/NOVA President Anna Dixon calls Janice the “glue” that holds LLI/NOVA together. “She possesses a gifted ability to step back and assess the big picture before diving into a task or project, thereby making the effort efficient and fluid for all involved. She also has a demonstrated expertise to master almost any project from start to finish with little or no oversight.”



Photo by LLI/NOVA member, Fritz Ernst



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Community Outreach

Does it feel like something new is in the air? It's 2021 and we've been waiting for something new to happen. We're in waiting mode for vaccine, for new activity in schools and workplace and business and government. It won't happen all at once but soon, we hope.

Our neighbors are waiting for something also. This is the time of year when many congregations are hosting hypothermia shelters for a week at a time, in new ways but as much needed as ever. Food pantries and volunteers continue to be vital to these efforts, and to the increasing needs of those with housing but without jobs or sufficient resources.

You probably gave as you could in these past months, but the need continues. The Community Outreach team focuses this month on two of the charities that LLI/NOVA has sponsored in the past. FACETS works with volunteers from religious congregations and Fairfax County to coordinate the Hypothermia Shelter that runs during the winter months. You can donate to their efforts at: FACETS, 10700 Page Ave, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030. Your religious congregation may be a weekly sponsor of the shelter and you may choose to contribute that way.

Also, Food for Others has just observed 25 years of "distributing food to neighbors in need." Between March and June 2020, they served 60,316 individuals from their Merrifield warehouse, a 324 percent increase over the same period in 2019. They currently plan to open mobile pantry locations, making it easier for clients to access. You can assist them by sending contributions to: 2938 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax VA 22031.

If you donate, you can put "LLI/NOVA" in the memo line, and they can track your affiliation. Thank you for continuing to do what you can, for those still waiting, and hoping, for relief.



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Humor

"Instant gratification takes too long." —*Carrie Fisher*

"I asked my brother-in-law, the father of four boys, 'If you had it to do all over again, would you still have kids?' 'Yes,' he said. 'Just not these four.'" —*Sheila Lee*

"When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you." —*Nora Ephron*.

"I recently asked a student where his homework was. He replied, 'It's still in my pencil.'" —*Larry Timmons*.

"Mapquest really needs to start its directions on number five. Pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood." —*Aaron Karo*

"WebMD is updating its server because of a virus. Well, they think it was a virus, but it could also be malaria, kidney failure, a heart murmur, gallstones, or possibly appendicitis." —*Crystal Lowery*

"Sometimes you lie in bed at night and you don't have a single thing to worry about. That always worries me!" —*Charlie Brown*

"My father always said, 'Never trust anyone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf.'" —*Emilia Clarke*

"I'm thinking of opening a firing range where all the targets are shaped like computers with screens full of pop-up ads." —*Dan Burt*

----(Excerpted from Reader's Digest "The 121 Funniest Quotes of All Time" assembled by Andy Simmons. —

Actually I only read the first 25. Ed.



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Special Interest Groups

Arts & Smarts



Sometime before January 2010, Donna Trogler and Doug Johnson, ardent museum goers, decided we should form a SIG that would arrange docent-led tours of our magnificent museums.

Doug came up with the name “Arts & Smarts.” Donna, who had a vast collection of art books, provided the expertise. Thanks to her and Marianne Moerman, we were able to establish contact with several docents who frequently guided us through their museum. We found the docents to be incredibly well informed and provided wonderful tours of their special exhibits.

Doug found a copy of LLI/NOVA’s January 2010 newsletter, which records that in March we visited the Hirshhorn Museum, in April the National Gallery of Art and in May the Renwick Gallery. In September 2013 we decided to halt this SIG due to falling attendance.



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Visual and Performing Arts

The Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) SIG was formed in 2017 by Anna Dixon. She has been a docent at the National Gallery of Art for 22 years, and she paints and draws in her spare time. The primary impetus for this SIG was to spur a breadth of “artful outings” ranging from museums throughout the Baltimore-Richmond region as well as musical events and group experiential art meetups.

VPA outings and events are numerous and casually arranged. For example, in 2018 a group of 15 carpooled and stayed at the Baltimore Inner Harbor for a weekend packed with museum outings and fine dining. A year later, we trekked to Rich-

mond for a similar weekend. Over the years, the VPA coordinated Kennedy Center visits for concerts and musical performances.

We also negotiated LLI/NOVA-member discount tickets for operas and plays at George Mason University's Performing Arts Center. Our VPA secured scarce tickets for several maiden outings to Glenstone and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Also, we would be remiss if we failed to mention our outings to various embassies and for private showings at the National Gallery of Art where works on paper could be viewed with the tutelage of a curator in small areas for close-up inspection.



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Bridge



Bridge is one of the world’s most popular card games, particularly among seniors. It is also one of the oldest, with early variants played in the 1500s. More recently, it is descended from Whist, and the current version and rules of bridge were popularized by Harold Vanderbilt in the 1920s.

In the United States, bridge gained peak popularity in the 1940s, but still remains extremely popular among millions of players today. In fact, bridge has become exceptionally popular in this time of COVID-19 as it has been adapted to online play using computerized partners and opponents, the ultimate social distancing.

It is not surprising then, given our demographics in LLI/NOVA, that Bridge has been a popular and active SIG since the earliest days. While the actual establishment date of the SIG is lost in the mists of time, Gladys and Bob Bucklew were likely the first Bridge SIG coordinators, and they joined LLI/NOVA in August 1999, approximately

Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

three years after the founding. Bob and Gladys set the standard for the SIG's operation with twice monthly games hosted at Mason District Governmental Center. In those early days, there were approximately a dozen members of the SIG.

Bob and Merry Huley joined LLI/NOVA in early 2004, and as bridge fans, they immediately joined the Bridge SIG. When the Bucklews decided to "retire" to North Carolina in August 2007, Bob and Merry volunteered to take over responsibility for the SIG, which at the time had 15 regular members. Over the ensuing years, the SIG grew in membership, peaking at 33 in 2011 and making it the largest and most active LLI/NOVA SIG.

While membership declined slightly after that peak to around 30, and more recently into the upper 20s, the Bridge SIG has continued to provide members with great bridge twice a month and with friendly competition and camaraderie. Although Bridge SIG membership records don't go back to the Bucklew era, there are four members from 2007 who are still active.

In addition to focusing on increasing participation (more players = more tables = more fun), Bob introduced Chicago scoring to make the games more competitive, game result email summaries and reports in the Newsletter, semi-annual and annual player rankings, use of bidding boxes, and a series of a dozen bridge lessons to improve everyone's play (particularly Bob's). Unfortunately, COVID-19 has essentially precluded play this year, and the last game was held Feb. 20. With the vaccine being distributed, we are hopeful that we will be able to return to the bridge tables by summer.



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Favorite Books Club

Zoom Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 21;
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Our selection this month is "Where the Crawdads Sing", a debut novel and best-seller by Delia Owens. Here we meet Kya Clark, a young woman abandoned as a child to survive alone in the wild coastal marshes of North Carolina. It is at the same time an exquisite ode to the natural world, a profound coming-of-age story, and a haunting mystery.

Questions? [Click here](#) for contact information for Lynne Smaldone



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Financial Discussion Group



In the October 2011 issue of LLI/NOVA's newsletter, Doug Johnson wrote an article seeking members who would like to participate in a general discussion of financial matters with a focus on investments. From those who responded Doug started the Financial Discussion SIG. Over the years they covered a vast range of subjects including the stock markets, investment research, portfolio management, insurance, annuities and other financial matters.

They met monthly at the Braddock District Government Center. The goal was to educate and explain. They would usually have a topic to consider, and then would discuss current events.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been Zooming their get-togethers. Usually between 10 and 15 members participate, bringing a range of financial knowledge.

Special Interest Groups (Cont.)



Tabletop Games

Do you like word games? Well come join us for a game of Big Boggle via Zoom on Jan. 26 at 1:30 p.m. Letters are shaken up in a frame to be displayed randomly. Players have three minutes to search the letters in the cube grid to make words of four or more letters. Search horizontally, vertically or diagonally to the left, right or up-and-down, the challenge is on! Parker Brothers introduced this game in 1979 and it is still going strong. Come join us for a fun afternoon and test your word power! If you are interested, [click here](#) for contact information for Mary Lu Bednarsky to confirm your email address. You will receive an email the day before play with an invitation containing the Zoom link to enter the game.

The Nov. 30 Trivia game by email ended in a tie. Bonnie Hopler and Gina Trapp each scored nine out of a possible 15 points. Nice work, ladies!

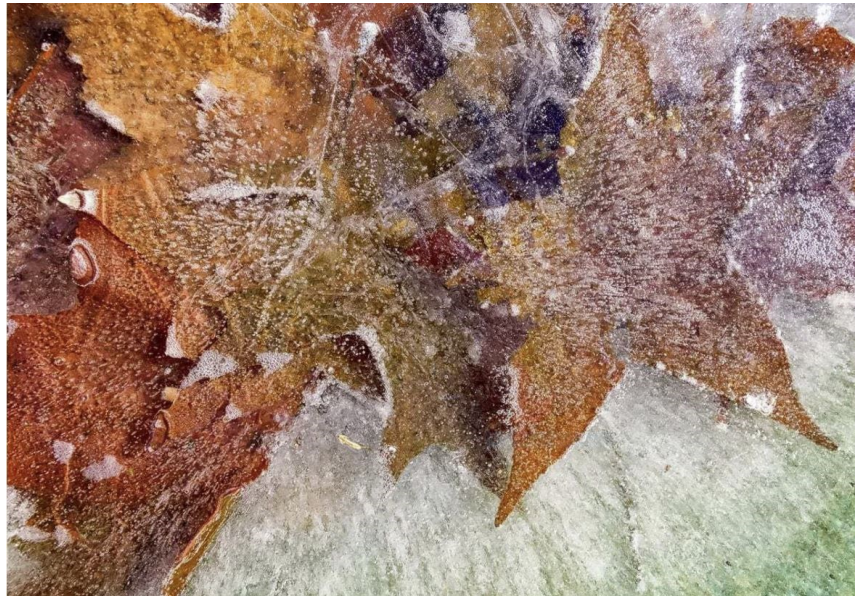


Photo by LLI/NOVA member, Buck Myers