



Volume 25—Number 4

News & Views

April 2021

Wednesday, April 7

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.)

Building a Better Energy Grid Grid Transformation

Although Texas is our most recent example, Puerto Rico, and other states, are undergoing a massive energy transformation. By 2050, 100 percent of the island's power is expected to come from renewable sources.

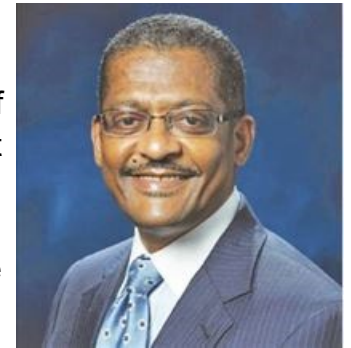
But what about 2021 in Puerto Rico?

Currently, most electrical power flows from fossil fuel plants in the south to consumers in the north, where 70 percent of the island's power is used. When anything happens to the southern plants, power outages and blackouts rapidly spread across the island. That happened in 2017 with Hurricane Maria, and it happened again in January when a 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico.

Clearly, Puerto Rico needs help. How do their experiences provide insight for other parts of the United States?

David K. Owens, recognized as one of the foremost authorities on electric utility issues, will ad-

dress these problems at LLI/NOVA's Forum on April 7. He is Vice Chair of the Board of the utility that owns the PR grid. Owens envisions that micro grids will be built throughout the island to reduce power outages from major storms and earthquakes.



He also will discuss our national power grid and renewable energy, in general, across the country.

An engineer and executive with extensive experience in public policies surrounding utility operations, strategic planning, technology development, rate making and regulations, Owens was an advisor to President Barack Obama and FEMA in the federal recovery effort after Superstorm Sandy in 2012. He was a liaison between FEMA and the energy industry.

Owens, the former Executive Vice President: Business Ops & Regulatory Affairs for Edison Electric Institute, has testified more than 50 times before Congress, federal and state agencies, regulators and other bodies related to the energy sector. Among his accolades, he was awarded the Thomas Edition Legacy Award by EEI.

He is a graduate of Howard University with both Bachelor and Master of Engineering degrees, and he also has a Master's in Engineering Administration from George Washington University.

History of the Hospitality Committee at Forums



Our 25th anniversary is the perfect time to look back on the history of the Hospitality Committee and its work at nine monthly forums each year. Thanks go to Leah Porzell and Martie Klee for launching this committee at LLI/NOVA's founding. It serves to encourage the camaraderie and socialization that are integral to our mission. The committee has traditionally consisted of two coordinators who recruit others to bring snacks. In the early days of very small enrollment the hospitality team also brewed coffee supplied by LLI/NOVA and hosted occasional potluck lunches in the forum room. As membership grew, coffee service was outsourced to the food services vendor on campus. With that came additional responsibilities for the coordinators in terms of handling any issues with the coffee service on meeting day and working with the vendor on an annual financial agreement for the expense.

At each forum worker bees brought supplies from the LLI/NOVA office to the meeting space, set up an attractive and appealing table with refreshments, and cleared it away at the meeting's conclusion. Many dedicated volunteers supported this effort since its inception. This anniversary reflection is an opportunity to recognize the members who served in this capacity including: Bozhana Kelley, Jane Jones, Trudy Hynes, Sally Reynolds, Dianne Boyle, Arlene Gribben, Betty Lee Thatcher, Nancy Jerdan, Philip Myers, Patty Brennan, Mary Purdy, Mary Lu Bednarsky, and Suzanne Pastura; perhaps there are others who cannot be identified. Phil Centini served in this post for the last six years.

Recruiting greeters for each meeting was another of Martie Klee's contributions and was capably handled by Colletta Hammond for over 10 years. The fine, dedicated work of coordinators and the

generous donations of members who supplied the refreshments have added greatly to the enjoyment of forums through our history and established LLI/NOVA's reputation as a friendly, welcoming community.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Here's an interesting spin on a food pantry we've promoted earlier.

"In the Fall of 2020, Food for Others partnered with a George Mason University Public Relations class. A student, Layth Alwatban, made a short documentary about Food for Others' Covid-19 response. He submitted it to the Beyond the Curve International Film Festival – and won Best Documentary, Dec-Jan 2021." (Info from the website of Food for Others)

The 7½-minute documentary focuses on the staff at the Fairfax warehouse. As we know, Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest regions in the country. This may be an eye-opener about food needs in our own area. Please continue to donate as you are able. View the film at: foodforothers.salsalabs.org/newsletterfebruary2021.

One of the final frames has a quote: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito. Dalai Lama."

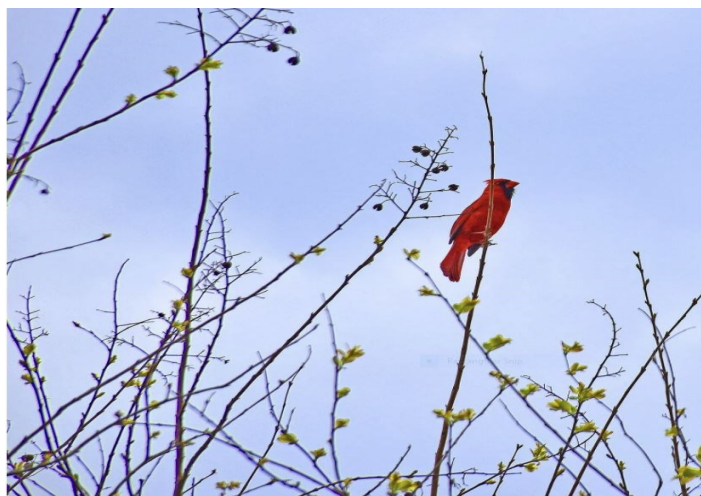


Photo by LLI/NOVA Member Kathy Dillon

Board of Directors



The mission of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia is to operate as a charitable non-profit organization to provide affordable and convenient opportunities for older adults to enjoy continuing education through the sharing of knowledge, talents and experience with their peers. A Board of Directors is appointed to carry out this mission.

Originally the Board was made up of 12 members, but within a year it was decided to expand to the present total of 15 members who serve on a voluntary basis. If the immediate past president does not continue as a Director, s/he may serve as an ex officio Director, with voting privileges. The Board establishes the policies of LLI/NOVA, approve budgets and oversee operations. It also has the authority to employ appropriate staff if necessary.

Officers and members of the Board of Directors are elected by the general membership at our annual meeting. The Board typically meets on the second Friday of the month with one annual planning retreat in July. Board meetings are open to LLI/NOVA members, with the exception of executive sessions. LLI/NOVA officers consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. The President presides over all business meetings and serves as Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The Vice President steps in to fulfill the duties of the President as necessary and performs other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is responsible for the receipts of all LLI/NOVA monies and payment of all financial obligations. He/She is, ex officio, a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and is also responsible for the maintenance of accurate financial records and for presenting written financial reports at each regular Board meeting and at the annual meeting. The Secretary assures that accurate records are prepared for all meetings, including policy and ad-

ministrative decisions, and serves as archivist of LLI/NOVA. There are several standing committees under the Board. The officers and the Immediate Past President constitute what's called the Executive Committee which exercises the authority of the Board of Directors between regular Board meetings.

The Budget and Finance Committee is made up of a chairperson, the Treasurer, and at least two members appointed by the chairperson. It prepares the annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors, and also periodically reviews our financial performance against the budget and reports its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee consists of three Board members and two non-Board members. Standing, advisory, ad hoc or special committee chairpersons may be named by the President, and members of such committees will be named by the chairpersons.

LLI/NOVA HISTORY AVAILABLE



To celebrate the first 25 years of LLI/NOVA and to anticipate the next 25, a history book is being prepared. It will be available in June. We will arrange a handy place for you to pick up the book in the NVCC Annandale parking lot, outdoors and socially distanced.

Please complete the order form on the website and include \$5 per copy. Or complete the order form in this newsletter on page 7 and mail it to the LLI/NOVA office with payment.

A digital version will be available in the fall. If you have comments or questions, contact Bonnie Hopley, the 25th Anniversary Celebration chair, at bdhopley@gmail.com, or Mary Jablonski, newsletter editor, at mjablonski1@verizon.net.



Bing Free Image

President's Message

The Inner Pictures of Our Souls

A strong sense of community and collegiality permeates LLI/NOVA. Our collective mindset tends to be “get it done” even as we stay mindful that we are volunteers. During the past 25 years, all worked well. Even though we infrequently advertised to recruit members, for many years membership averaged about 370 members.

Having slogged through the Covid-19 pandemic, we are on the crest of what we dared to dream about a year ago. Most of us are now vaccinated, and now we must determine when and how to reemerge within the framework of the governing guidelines.

As we prepare to exhale, it is critically important that we appreciate all of our members for supporting and sustaining our network. It is time to give a shout of praise to all the industrious and flexible presenters, and to the many working behind the scenes to present high quality classes. We salute a staff of two doing the work of 10 maintaining the website, compiling, and managing operational logistics afar, Board members, and many committee/SIG leaders. Not only did things get done, they got done darn well.

Under the highly effective and generous leadership of Dick Robison and his Curriculum Committee, many of us executed ideas with no fanfare. Nan Peck offered 10 classes in one session and has the fastest growing following among the members. They register for her offerings as enthusiastically as they do for those of veteran presenters Barry Centini, Connie Rosenstein, Steve Cohen, Arline Sachs, and many more.

Another quiet but effective type is Dick Martin, who chairs the Scholarship Committee. He brokered our partnership with the NOVA Foundation

and spearheaded our record \$25,000 scholarship donation, which aligned with our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

We also give kudos to Mary Jablonski, newsletter editor and her able assistant. Unlike previous years they kept producing our newsletter nonstop due to Covid. Traditionally, December, July, and August are vacation breaks for the editors, but not this past year.

To paraphrase artist Marc Chagall, if we create and work from the heart, nearly everything works; if we operate solely from the head, almost nothing works.

Bob Huley (Study Travel), Bonnie Hopley (25th Anniversary Chair), and Joseph Pincus (Forum Chair) are examples of members who endured setbacks but continued to help us as we struggled with the pandemic's changing guidance.

For more than 13 years, Bob guided and managed the Study Travel Committee and understandably he and his group were disappointed with withdrawal from last year's European trip. Bonnie and her team were saddened that we cancelled the in-person celebration scheduled for this May. Joseph continues to express his preference for in-person Forums.

Now that most of us have been vaccinated, it is our individual turn to determine when it is appropriate for us to venture out and meet in-person. The Board plans to conform with CDC and NOVA guidance this fall regarding whether we should meet in-person. A suggestion to survey the membership regarding preferences was tabled until more information is known about the efficacy of the vaccines, new variants, an estimation of herd immunity, and other factors.

So, it is okay if you are feeling more grateful and are becoming naturally optimistic. We will be meeting in person soon. Best, Anna

Special Interest Groups



like to try this fun word game and you will be sent a Zoom invite the day before.

We also send out a monthly trivia game, testing your memory or your luck. If either of these pique your interest, let Mary Lu know. We welcome all with a zest for fun and laughter.

Mary Alexander and Philip Hodges tied for the most correct answers to the Feb. 23 Trivia Game. Charlotte Rosenfeld will assemble Trivia questions for the March 23 game.

Contact Mary Lu Bednarsky ([click here](#)) to play either game.

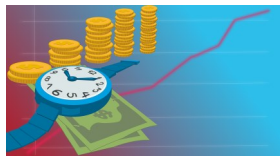


Favorite Books Club

Thursday, April 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(ZOOM Meeting)

Our selection this month is "The Paris Wife," by Paula McLain, a fictionalized account of Ernest Hemingway's marriage to his first wife, Hadley Richardson. Told from Hadley's perspective, it chronicles their life in 1920s Paris as he struggles to become a successful writer and focuses on their romance, marriage and divorce.

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



Financial Discussion

The stock market is an amazing collection of information. It assimilates everything from economics and politics to the weather and more, and then decides its course of action.

Join us for an interesting and lively discussion of this and other financial matters. We currently meet via Zoom the second Thursday of each month at 1p.m. (March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 10). Contact Doug Johnson, LLINOVA DOUG@gmail.com or 703-628-3115



Tabletop Games

As we continue to get vaccinated and hope for in-person gatherings, the Tabletop Games group meets through emails and Zoom.

Please join us for Big Boggle on Tuesday, March 23, at 1:30. Let Mary Lu Bednarsky know if you'd



NEW MEMBER

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

Joe Slomski

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."

When your hair looks a mess but you're in a good mood.

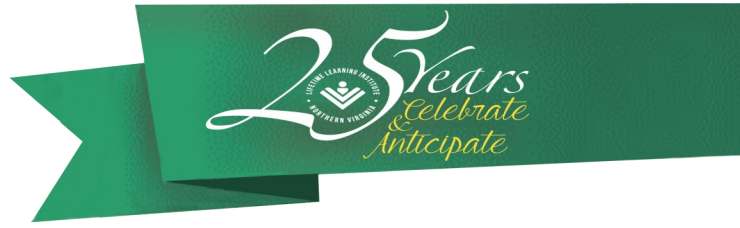


[I am fully vaccinated and can return to my hair salon. Ed.]

**Register now for these April Chats
with students/young adults from the following countries**

Sundays 7-8:30pm via [Zoom \(register here\)](#)

<p>A map of South Africa showing its geographical features and major cities. The Tropic of Capricorn is marked with a dashed line. Major cities include Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein, and Pretoria. The map also shows neighboring countries like Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Swaziland. A legend indicates terrain types: Low, Hills, and Mountains. Scale bars show 125 km and 400 miles.</p>	<p>Republic of South Africa (RSA)...April 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern West Africa; RSA has three capital cities: executive Pretoria, judicial Bloemfontein and legislative Cape Town. The largest city is Johannesburg. • RSA is about <i>twice</i> the size of Texas!; 57 million population; • Second largest economy on the continent; high income inequality
<p>A map of Turkey showing its location between Europe and Asia. Major cities like Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir are marked. The map shows the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Aegean Sea to the west. Neighboring countries like Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Iraq are also visible. A legend indicates terrain types: Low, Hills, Plateau, and Mountains. Scale bars show 200 km.</p>	<p>Turkey...April 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders Europe and Asia • Size of Texas; • 82 million population; • Automotive, petrochemical, and electronics industries dominate exports
<p>A map of Bangladesh showing its location in Southern Asia. It is bordered by India to the west and north, and Myanmar to the east. The Bay of Bengal is to the south. Major cities like Dhaka and Chittagong are marked. The map shows the Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems. Neighboring countries like Nepal and Bhutan are also visible.</p>	<p>Bangladesh...April 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India • About the size of Iowa • 164 million population; 8th most populous in the world • Large exporter of garments • Hindered by insufficient power supply



To order a copy of the 25th Anniversary history book, complete the form on the website and pay a \$5.00 fee. Or complete this form and mail it with your check payment. You will be notified when the book is complete. Please respond by May 15th.

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