



Volume 25—Number 5

News & Views

May 2021

Wednesday, May 5

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

Social Zooming: 9:30 a.m.

Announcements: 9:50 a.m.

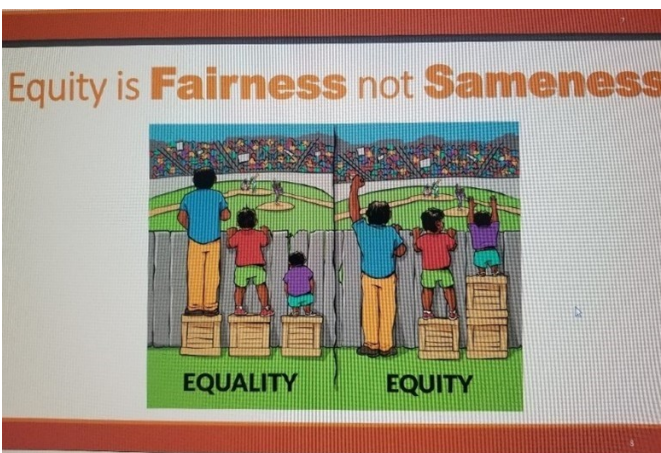
Presentation: 10:00 a.m.

(Click on the URL in the email.)

”BECOMING ONE FAIRFAX”

Join Fairfax County’s Chief Equity Officer, Karla Bruce, to learn more about the county’s commitment to racial and social equity through its "One Fairfax" policy.

The presentation and discussion will broaden our understanding of the strategic importance of equity, covering key equity concepts, outlining equity challenges facing Fairfax County, and offering guidance on how the community can help advance equity.



Karla also will share insights on the Commonwealth’s "One Virginia Plan" as she discusses the economic cost and hardship for all unless there is a commitment to promote fairness, justice, and equity in public policy.



Karla Bruce has more than 20 years of local government management experience. Known as a driver of innovation in public service delivery, she attempts to connect the efforts of local government with the collective action of residents and broad networks of partners.

Ms. Bruce provides overall management of the One Fairfax strategic framework, advising and supporting the Board of Supervisors and county leadership and staff in shaping and directing policy to foster equitable opportunity for all Fairfax County residents. She is a regular presenter, panelist and blog contributor on the role of government in advancing equity. She holds a Masters of Public Administration from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Science from Penn State University

Want to contact LLI/NOVA? The best way is by email to admin@llinova.org. Your concern/question will be routed to the appropriate source.



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President's Message

The Future is Now: Now What?

The COVID-19 vaccines have arrived, and our age demographic is mostly vaccinated. However, somewhat ironically, this option to return to “normal” is not bringing the peace and calm we might have anticipated. Now we must decide when, how, and what works for each of us post COVID. Not everyone is willing to be vaccinated, no vaccine is 100 percent effective, and the variant strains continue to emerge. Those unwilling to get vaccinated have a right to remain silent. Each of us must move forward with our return to normal at our own comfort level.

The Board recognizes that our mission is built around social and in-person learning. Our April Board meeting lasted about 2.5 hours . . . a record. Further, to ensure maximum collaboration as we re-emerge, the 2021-22 incoming Board members have been participating in current Board meetings since February. We voted on several major items including piloting a LLI/NOVA social-media presence under the leadership of Nan Peck and Janice Viola and several others. The LLI/NOVA Twitter Account is active already. More information will be forthcoming concerning our social-media presence, as younger and prospective members are heavy social-media users.

The lead time for our monthly Forums is significant. When we are able to secure world experts to address us, it is very unfortunate if we have just 60 participants join via Zoom. Both the Forum and the Travel/Day Trips Committees are planning sessions in May so that members can help identify options for the 2021-22 program year. The physical requirements for participating in on-campus activities will be governed by the college. Similarly, travel and day trips must comply with government guidance. Although most of us are probably uncertain regarding our individual comfort level for socializing, we are preparing for the post-Covid era.

We are not emerging as the old LLINOVA. Many members say they prefer continuing some Zoom classes/events going forward. Recently, a member who lives in Mount Vernon says she is happy to attend more classes without factoring in a 45-minute commute each way. Even Forum-presenter options are expanded with Zoom. Steve Cohen recently secured a commitment from an expert based in California to present at one of our Forums this fall.

Zoom served us well during the Covid peak, but in 2021 we hope to have as many in-person activities as prudent. Zoom fatigue is real. Virtual meetings miss the details and nuances of facial expressions and gestures, along with the ability to chat walking to and from our vehicles or to attend the lunch-bunch meetings after in-person Forums. Goodbyes are abrupt and even disorienting for many people used to a formal nod and handshake or a farewell walk to the door or post-class chat.

Best, Anna

NB: All Board meetings minutes are posted on the website.



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LLI/NOVA Board of Directors 2021-2022 Election

The LLI/NOVA 2021 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce an outstanding slate of officers and board members for our 2021-2022 year. The Nominating Committee this year was comprised of Loren Brandman (chair), Patti Volz, Pat Neri, Mamie Kam-Ng, and Bev Portman.

Please review the proposed slate of nominees and plan to attend the June Forum (Wednesday, June 2) to vote on these candidates. Your vote is important, and we assure you that every vote will be counted!

Our Board of Directors is made up of 15 members elected by the membership. Board members serve a three-year term, with five Board members' terms expiring annually. If a position becomes vacant, a new member is elected to complete the unexpired term.

The slate of candidates for the Board are as follows:

Board candidates for three-year term ending 6/30/2024:

Mary Alexander
Steven Cohen
Carol Fagnani
Derick Malis
Paul Massell

Board candidates to complete unexpired terms:

Loren Brandman (6/30/2023)
Dina Cotlier (6/30/2023)
Dick Robison (6/30/2023)

LLI/NOVA has four officer positions elected by the membership from among the Board members. Officers serve a one-year term.

Officer candidates:

President – Derick Malis

Vice President – Patti Volz
Treasurer – Fritz Ernst
Secretary – Loren Brandman

Continuing Board members (no vote required):

Anna Dixon
Richard Martin
Pat Neri
Nan Peck
Mary Jablonski

Short biographies of each candidate are included below, along with the position and Board term for which they are being nominated.



Derick Malis – President and three-year board term (through 6/2024)

Derick Malis joined LLI/NOVA in 2018. He was born and raised in Northwest Indiana and graduated from Indiana University with an A. B. Degree in Anthropology and Political Science. He taught three years of high school, then moved to the Washington Metropolitan Area in 1974 and began a 27-year career with the YMCA. Derick served in many capacities at the YMCA including: Outreach Director, Program/Aquatic Director, International Director, Drug Free Zones Director, Associate Executive and Executive Director of three branch operations. Derick initiated a youth sports program in Arlington that exceeded 300 participants. He administered programs that served a variety of community needs, most prominent of which were childcare and day camp services in the Green Valley Community of South Arlington.

In 2002, Derick became the field organizer for the effort to bring Major League Baseball to Northern Virginia. In 2003, he became the fundraising manager for Vanguard Services Unlimited, a substance abuse treatment agency serving the Washington Metropolitan Area. Derick retired in

2012.

Derick hopes to serve as LLI/NOVA President because it will be an interesting challenge and will provide him opportunities to advance the interests of an organization he values, as well as work with and get to know many talented and interesting individuals.

Derick is married to Inta Malis and has one grown daughter. He is an avid basketball fan who still plays (pre-Covid), enjoyed attending his daughter's games, and officiated local games for many years. He is a history buff who loves to travel. He has heated his house with wood for the last 30 years, doing all the chopping, splitting, sawing and chimney sweeping this entails. He is a fairly avid reader and enjoys most games and sports.



Patti Volz - Vice President

Patti joined LLI/NOVA in May 2013 after a 33-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency and elsewhere within the Intelligence community, focusing on management, collection and requirements, and public affairs. Patti is currently LLI/NOVA's vice president, She serves as co-chair of the Foodies & Friends Special Interest Group, and is a member of the Scholarship Committee. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Virginia and her Masters in International Relations at Georgetown University, with an emphasis on the Soviet Union and China. Patti is a recipient of the CIA's Career Intelligence Medal, awarded for a cumulative record of service reflecting exceptional achievements that substantially contributed to the mission of the Agency. She is an avid scuba diver and enjoys travel, reading and growing herbs.



Frederick (Fritz) Ernst - Treasurer

Fritz earned a B.S. in Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a Masters in Civil Engineering and Nuclear Engineering from

Stanford University. He served 26 years with the Army Corps of Engineers in a variety of engineering and other assignments, including in Vietnam, Thailand, Europe, and the United States. He commanded an engineer battalion (approximately 700 soldiers) stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. His final Army assignment was three years serving in high-level leadership and management positions (e.g., Directorate Head and Agency Chief of Staff) at the Defense Nuclear Agency (now the Defense Threat Reduction Agency). After retirement, Fritz provided technical and advisory services to the Defense Nuclear Agency for 22 years and served as the program manager for as many as 300 technical personnel during the contract period. He provided input for written and oral proposals that led to the contract's being awarded roughly every five years on a competitive basis.



Loren Brandman – Secretary and board term through 6/2023

Loren joined LLI/NOVA four years ago and has loved learning about new things and meeting new people. She is originally from Newburgh, N.Y., and earned a

B.S. in computer science from Rochester Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Pete, have one grown son. Loren retired in 2016 after 35 years with the federal government, where she served in various positions – programmer, program manager, contracting officer's technical representative, and budget analyst. Loren has served as LLI/NOVA's treasurer and is currently

serving as secretary. Loren volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Food for Others, and Fairfax's Medical Reserve Corps. She enjoys biking, hiking, swimming, reading, and traveling.



Mary Alexander – Three-year board term (through 6/2024)

Mary Alexander has been a member of LLI/NOVA since 2019, where she has lectured on butterflies and the Oregon Trail, and has participated in the yearly Great Decisions discussion group. She is a roving

interpreter for the Fairfax County Park Authority and the U.S. Representative for EcoPeace Middle East, a regional environmental peacebuilding organization. Her work as a naturalist is her second career after 35 years working on international trade policy in the U.S. Congress and for a think-tank and a major electronics company. Mary served as President of Women in International Trade (WIIT) in Washington, D.C., chaired its educational arm, and received the first WIIT Lifelong Achievement Award.

She has a degree in History with a minor in Education from Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA. She also has earned a Natural History Field Studies certificate from the USDA Graduate School and is a Virginia Master Naturalist. Since retiring, Mary has worked at a number of nature centers and parks. The summer of 2015, she and her husband served as interpretative rangers at a state park in Idaho, and the following summer she served as an interpretive ranger at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. She has had a long-time interest in butterflies, teaching classes on Lepidoptera and guiding field trips to find butterflies, especially in the Washington area and at Sky Meadows State Park, Delaplane, Va. Mary enjoys nature and the outdoors, traveling the world, playing the piano with a monthly performance group, and spending time with her hus-

band, two sons and two grandchildren. She looks forward to offering new perspectives to the LLI/NOVA Board of Directors and feels honored to be nominated to serve on the Board.



Steve Cohen – Three-year board term (through 6/2024)

Originally from Rochester, N.Y., Steve attended both undergraduate and graduate school at Cornell University where he earned his DVM with distinction degree in 1975. After practicing

small animal medicine in Rhode Island for a year, and then Buffalo, N.Y. for three years, he and wife Debbie, along with their two cats, moved to Northern Virginia in 1979. The next year he established the first full-time veterinary house-call practice in the Commonwealth (Mobile Veterinary Services of Northern Virginia) and ran it until his retirement in 2010. Steve was active in the D.C. Academy of Veterinary Medicine, serving as program chairman, president, and then on its board from 2003-2013. He is also a past president of the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medicine Association.

Since retiring, Steve has been able to devote more time to his scuba diving and underwater videography hobbies. His videos have won awards in various competitions and have been shown multiple times at the San Diego Underwater Film Exhibition. He also uses them for presentations to LLI/NOVA, Osher LLI, and the LLI group at Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg. Besides his underwater hobby, Steve enjoys reading, watching hockey and Netflix, and is a first alternate for the 2021 Olympic napping team 😊. He hopes to join the LLI/NOVA Board and to assist in finance and other committees as needed. Steve and Debbie live in Annandale with their cat, Knuble.



Dina Cotlier – board term through 6/2023

Dina joined LLI/NOVA five years ago and has enjoyed a variety of classes and activities as well as meet-

ing interesting people. She was born and raised in Argentina, where she received a Master’s Degree in Philosophy. Dina worked at the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service Institute for 35 years, providing Foreign Service personnel with training in language skills and cultural knowledge needed to serve in embassies across the Spanish-speaking world. She developed curriculum materials, coordinated lectures on cultural affairs, and served as a learning consultant in the School of Language Studies.

Dina has always been interested in art and has taken painting and drawing courses. She has served as a desk volunteer at the National Gallery of Art for five years. She enjoys traveling, Pilates, art films, and reading. She is looking forward to serving LLI/NOVA as a board member.



Carol Fagnani – Three-year board term (through 6/2024)

Carol joined LLI/NOVA during 2019. She is a member of the Trip Committee and looks forward to offering her support on the Board. She enjoys the wide range

of class offerings that the organization offers its members.

Carol has been in the area since 1984 when her husband, Frank, was transferred here by the Air Force. Carol retired from the federal government, where she held senior level positions in acquisitions and supply management. She is a Certified

Professional Contracts Manager. She was an executive business advisor at the Department of Education, where she managed major information technology initiatives. At the United States Postal Service, Carol was the Manager of Information Technology and Telecommunications and responsible for managing the acquisition of \$1 billion worth of goods and services each year.

Since retiring in 2014, Carol plays pickleball, a racquet game popular among seniors. Carol also enjoys traveling, country-western line dancing, and walking in our local parks.



Paul Massell – Three-year board term (through 6/2024)

Paul joined LLI/NOVA in 2020 after learning about it from long-time members at Greenspring retirement village. Paul is originally from Boston, Mass, but also lived

in Toledo, Ohio, and Oak Park, Ill., while growing up. He graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A. in mathematics, and from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York with a Ph.D. in mathematics. Paul retired from the federal government in 2016, having worked for eight years as a (civilian) mathematics professor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis early in his career, and at the U.S. Census Bureau (in the Statistical Research Division) for 18 years. Between those jobs, he worked as an applied mathematician as a contractor for the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Md. He also taught several courses in the Johns Hopkins University evening graduate program in Applied and Computational Mathematics at two campuses. He designed a course called “Nonlinear Dynamical Systems.”

Paul is interested in pursuing efforts to connect LLI/NOVA members with NVCC students to support students’ choosing an academic field, job searching, and career development. His hobbies

include following current events, watching sports on TV, and playing slow-paced tennis.



Richard (Dick) Robison - board term through 6/2023

Dick has been a member of LLI/NOVA since about 2010, the Curriculum Committee Chair since 2019, and a member of the Board since 2020. He has a master's degree in business administration (management) and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He retired from the Air Force in 2001 after 26 years as an officer. He had a number of interesting assignments, including as a C-130 test pilot, hurricane hunter, squadron commander, and airlift control element commander in Mogadishu, Somalia (United Nations). He also had two assignments to Germany, as well as joint assignments with the Army and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. After retirement from the Air Force, Dick directed imagery analysis and training support to the intelligence community as a director at EOIR Technologies, Inc. He retired from that position in 2013.



LLI CELEBRATES ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Twenty-five years ago, 38 individuals got together to form what we now know as the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia – LLI/NOVA. Thirty percent of LLI'ers have been members for 10 years or more. That says something about our organization!

Although the pandemic squelched the opportunity for LLI/NOVA members to get together in person in May to celebrate our anniversary, we will have an opportunity to do so later—so stay tuned!

But in the meantime, there is a way to acknowledge our achievement. Volunteers are documenting all that LLI/NOVA has accomplished these past 25 years in a printed book that will feature lots of photos, both in color and black and white, articles about members and officers, the various special interest groups that have come and gone (and perhaps may be revived?), tales told of LLI/NOVA experiences on trips, both short and long, and other items of interest. You have the option of purchasing a copy for \$5.00 each.

Please complete the order form on the website and include \$5 per copy. Or complete the order form in this newsletter on page 10 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 either Bonnie Hopler at bdhopler@gmail.com or Mary Jablonski at mjablonski1@verizon.net.



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Monthly Meet-Up Class by Nan Peck

Many of us have felt challenged by differences in opinions and beliefs about politics, science, and social issues. The Covid pandemic has exposed some of our systemic social inequities and has given us pause to decide how to respond to these differences. For some, we have chosen to stop talking about many issues. For others, we have elected to withdraw and retreat from relationships with difficult people.

Join Nan Peck for a Monthly Meet-Up on April 28 to explore these issues and more. Register for 21SP07 "We Just Don't Communicate: How Relationships Die." In May, we'll explore ways to resurrect dying relationships, "We Need to Talk."



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Community Outreach

“Food banks across the country have seen record increases in need even as donations and volunteers dwindle.” —Washington Post.

Despite stimulus checks, there are so many needs for rent relief, food, medications, transportation and more. Those at LLI/NOVA have big hearts and pitch in to help even as our own needs are being met.

This is a REMINDER: don't forget to make a donation to a dedicated food pantry or a church organization which distributes food on a needed basis. There still is need! Thank you.

Reminders of a few pantries we have supported in the past:

Food For Others 2938 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax VA 22031
info@foodforothers.org
(703) 207-9173

Facets 10700 Page Ave, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030
facets@facetscares.org
(703) 352-5090



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NOVA'S LLI Has a New Twitter Account

If You're on Twitter, Please Follow @LLINOVA1

In addition, the LLI/NOVA Board has agreed to look into setting up a closed Facebook group as well to facilitate discussion, recruitment, announcements, and fun. Closed Facebook groups are private in that only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Please share your comments, suggestions or concerns with Nan Peck (nanpeck4@gmail.com). After a year's experience, we can decide whether to continue this offering as a regular part of our annual budget.

Scholarship “Thank You” Letter to LLI/NOVA Members

The following are excerpts from a “thank you” letter just received from a recipient of an LLI/NOVA scholarship:

“In April of 2017, I was awarded the LLI Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship. During my interview I stated to members of LLI/NOVA that one of my academic goals was to attend a top-tier university. In October of 2017, I was accepted to Cornell University's School of Industrial Labor Relations and can now proudly say that I am a Cornell University graduate!

“Completing my degree at NVCC and Cornell would not have been possible without your support. I wanted to send out a BIG THANK YOU for your support and guidance. Just a few weeks ago, I was accepted to Harvard's Graduate School of Education where I will be majoring in Educational Design, Innovation, and Technology!

“I am incredibly grateful for all of this support, thank you so very much!

“All the best,

Umaar Ehsan



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Buck Myers



Special Interest Groups

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Favorite Books Club

Thursday, May 20,
11:30 a.m.--1 p.m.
(Zoom Meeting)

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Our selection this month is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," a novel by Kim Michele Richardson.

It is 1936, and the setting is rural Kentucky. Here we meet Cussy Mary Carter, last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. She is a "Book Woman," one of the Packhorse Librarians who deliver books to remote areas of Appalachia as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA) program during the Great Depression. The story centers on her experiences and the prejudice that she fights to overcome, in her quest to deliver books to the community that she loves.

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



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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 will meet via Zoom on May 13 at 1 p.m.

Contact Doug Johnson at LLINOVA-DOUG@gmail.com or 703-628-3115



SIG Tabletop Games

I apologize that you will probably receive this newsletter after the revised date for Big Boggle of Apr. 20. The email

Trivia game will go out on Apr 26 to members who request inclusion with a return date of May 4 to member, Bob Glomb. [Click here](#) for contact information for Mary Lu Bednarsky.



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Humor

From <https://www.brainyquote.com>

Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes. **Jim Carrey**

Only the mediocre are always at their best. **Jean Giraudoux**

Progress is man's ability to complicate simplicity. **Thor Heyerdahl**

By all means let's be open-minded, but not so open-minded that our brains drop out. **Richard Dawkins**

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by. **Douglas Adams**

We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know. **W. H. Auden**

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else. **Margaret Mead**

My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger. **Billy Connolly**

I knew I was an unwanted baby when I saw that my bath toys were a toaster and a radio. **Joan Rivers**

I believe that if life gives you lemons, you should make lemonade... And try to find somebody whose life has given them vodka, and have a party. **Ron White**



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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OF COPIES _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

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