



Volume 25—Number 6

## News & Views

June 2021

**Wednesday, June 2**

**LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM**

**Annual Meeting: 9:30 a.m.**

**Presentation: 10:00 a.m.**

**(Click on the URL in the email.)**

This will be a rare opportunity to learn the “stories behind the stamps” along with the rich, long-term history of the Smithsonian’s museum collection and philately. Hands-down, **Daniel Piazza** is the most qualified person to present on the National Postal Museum’s underlying history, science, arts, etc. He is the museum’s curator and ambassador for promoting an understanding of philately.

The images found on postage stamps provide a visual history of the people and events that helped to shape our country. Our postage stamps represent American values of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice.

**Daniel A. Piazza** is the Smithsonian National Postal Museum’s Chief Curator of Philately. He is responsible for exhibitions, research, and acquisitions related to the museum’s collection of six million postage stamps and postal artifacts. These objects form one of the largest philatelic and postal collections in the world and the second largest collection at the Smithsonian Institution. As chief curator, his exhibitions include Al-

exander Hamilton: Soldier, Statesman, Icon (2018); Trailblazing: 100 Years of Our National Parks (2016); British Guiana One-Cent Magenta: The World’s Most Famous Stamp (2015); and Freedom Just around the Corner: Black America from Civil War to Civil Rights (2015).

Piazza earned his M.A. in American history (2004) from Syracuse University, where he also taught history courses in the University College and was a Charles A. Dana Foundation Fellow in the University Library’s rare book collection. He received his B.A. in history with a minor in political science (1998) from Wagner College.



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## President's Message

### A Breath of Fresh Air

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A sometimes annoying adage is that the only constant in life is change. A ready example: We navigated the pendulum swings of Covid-19, jolting from 'don't wear masks' to 'wear masks,' and now a return to 'don't wear masks.'

Within LLI/NOVA over the past three years, we transitioned and significantly benefitted from major milestone changes such as shifting from paper distribution of the monthly newsletter, class catalog, scholarship, and other payments to digital transactions and presentations.

Taking advantage of a staff change at NOVA, we revamped our scholarship program to reach many more needy students.

With all of this forward movement, we also relished some resurgences. For example, after an eight-year hiatus, the Post-Forum Lunch Bunch was flourishing again when Covid landed last year. We expect to resume the lunches when we can enjoy them in person.

Drilling down on recent LLI/NOVA changes, you will find numerous member-volunteers who invest hundreds of hours and, in turn, they seek no formal fanfare or recognition. Except for one part-time administrator, who is exceptional, we are a 100-percent volunteer organization.

An often-overlooked key component of this also involves each of you. Frequently, a change or innovation is generated by a single member who offers a suggestion or who may ask that we be more sensitive. That is the sparkle that makes LLI/NOVA a great value and source of enjoyment for our members. What good is a leader when there are no followers?

Further, no single one of us is greater than the

sum of all of us. Our Board members and our SIG and Committee chairs are savvy enough to nurture open dialogue and to keep our base energized. After talking with other members, what first seemed to be the right answer to a problem turns out not to be the best solution, as they learned.

What is the point? Over the next few months and early fall, members will have to decide, individually, on personal comfort levels about re-entering into pre-Covid routines. This ranges from the monthly Forums, SIG events like Foodies and Friends, Art SIG outings to museums, walkabouts, and nearby day trips. In the fall, it will be time to plan for a 2022 study travel trip.

Did/will everybody get vaccinated? Probably not. Just plan to embrace the forthcoming "breath of fresh air" at your personal comfort level. Many people will stay in, many will continue to wear masks in public, and many will not.

July 2021 begins our new program year, and one-third of the new Board members have been LLI/NOVA members less than three years. Thus, the 2021-22 Board brings new energy and direction while remaining tethered to our core mission of sponsoring social, educational and travel activities.



Photo by LLI/NOVA member Jona Wheeler

## Annual Membership Meeting

If you have been a member of LLI/NOVA for even a short period, you know that our organization is dependent on volunteers for our operation. We have a very part-time Administrator, Janice Viola, who takes care of some administrative tasks, but the rest of our many educational programs and activities are brought to you by volunteers from among your fellow members. As a membership driven organization, our Bylaws require us to have an annual membership meeting. (Note: The Bylaws may be viewed on our website in the homepage About Us tab at the Governance (Policies and Bylaws) menu item.) In accordance with our Bylaws, there are three specific actions that we must accomplish at this annual membership meeting.

- The first task is that we must hold our annual elections for members of the Board of Directors and for the Officers. The election requirements are covered in another article in this newsletter.
- The second requirement is that the Budget and Finance Committee must present the Board of Directors approved fiscal year budget to the membership. We do this in three ways. The budget, with a brief explanation, is published elsewhere in this newsletter. The budget is posted on our website in the homepage Member Area tab, at the Forms and Records menu item and at both the Current Budget and Financial Reports and the Archives – Budget selections. Third, we briefly review the budget and key items at the annual membership meeting.
- Finally, we provide a statement of financial condition prepared by the Budget and Finance Committee based on the annual review of LLI/NOVA's finances by the Financial Review Committee. (Note: The annual Financial Review Committee report is posted on our website in the homepage Member Area tab, at the Forms and Records menu item and in the Current Budget and Financial Reports selection.)

We hope that you will join us at your Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, June 2, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m.** and exercise your vote in the elections. These important tasks will be completed in time for our June Forum speaker, Daniel Piazza, to begin his presentation, "The Stories Behind the Stamps," at 10 a.m., so please plan to attend both. There are a multitude of options to volunteer in your LLI/NOVA, and we hope you pursue one to give back to your organization.

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## Voting for LLI/NOVA 2021/2022 Board Members and Officers

The election for LLI/NOVA's 2021/2022 Board of Directors and Officers will take place on June 2 at 9:30 a.m. The election and a short business meeting will precede the Forum speaker's presentation. Please plan to join the meeting at 9:30 (via Zoom) to vote and hear an update on the organization's financial health.

See the May newsletter for complete candidate bios.

The election requires a quorum, so if you know in advance that you won't be able to vote on June 2, please send an email to [Loren.Brandman@gmail.com](mailto:Loren.Brandman@gmail.com) to vote for our slate of candidates. You may vote on the entire slate at once (i.e., "I approve the slate of board members and officers proposed by the nominating committee, as listed in the May newsletter.")

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

### **Board candidates for 3-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 has four **Officer positions** elected by the membership from among the Board members. Officers serve a 1-year term. The slate of officer candidates is as follows:

- President – Derick Malis
- Vice President – Patti Volz
- Treasurer – Fritz Ernst
- Secretary – Loren Brandman

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## **Budget & Finance Committee FY 2022 Budget**

In compliance with LLI/NOVA's Bylaws, the Budget & Finance Committee is publishing LLI/NOVA's FY 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) budget (see page 8) that was approved by the Board of Directors on April 9, 2021. The budget will also be presented at the June Annual Membership meeting.

Our primary source of income is member dues, and for the FY 2022 budget, we project our mem-

bership will grow back to 325 paid members by the end of the fiscal year. As a result, we currently plan to maintain the annual member dues at \$110. Due primarily to the pandemic, however, our membership has declined during this period by approximately 20 percent, and we are currently below 300. We hope this decline will end as the pandemic draws to a close, and we can then improve member levels during the coming year as we return to more normal operations to include in-person classes, Forums, SIGs, and travel. We will then need to continue to grow our membership back to previous levels over 350 in FY 2023 to maintain our dues structure.

As noted in the budget, we also expect to receive income from a planned 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon, sale of remaining 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History books, class fees for the Great Decisions class, and interest from investments, principally in Treasury Bills and CDs.

Our expenses have been very conservatively estimated, but they assume a return to normal operations. Therefore, there are significant costs for classroom and Ernst Center rentals. FY 2022 also includes the celebration of our pandemic-delayed 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for LLI/NOVA, and the Board has authorized extra one-time expenditures.

As you will note, we project a significant deficit for FY 2022. This can be attributed to the combination of reduced membership and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration expenditures. Because of very conservative financial management of LLI/NOVA funds during the past 25 years, we currently have sufficient net assets (i.e., savings, both in operations funds and an emergency fund) to offset this year's expected budget deficit. LLI/NOVA remains very healthy financially, but the real key to our continued organizational health is recruiting and retaining members.

If you have any questions about LLI/NOVA's FY 2022 budget, contact Bob Huley, Chair, Budget & Finance Committee ([click on this link](#) for contact information).

## 25th Anniversary Proclamation

Fairfax County Supervisors James Walkinshaw and Penny Gross declared May 4, 2021, as Life-time Learning Institute NOVA Day, recognizing the organization's 25 years of serving seniors in the county.

The two supervisors met virtually on May 6 with LLI/NOVA President Anna Dixon and Bonnie Hopler, chair of the organization's 25th Anniversary Committee, along with the organization's officers, Board of Directors, and other members of the 25th Anniversary Committee.

Supervisor Walkinshaw's Braddock District is home to the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College, where LLI/NOVA is headquartered. Supervisor Gross (Mason District) presented LLI/NOVA with a similar proclamation at the organization's 10th Anniversary celebration luncheon in May 2006.



Later that day, the LLI/NOVA members met in person with Supervisor Walkinshaw at his office in Burke for the presentation of the proclamation to Anna Dixon and for photographs.

Also attending:

Past presidents Ed McKnight, Lorin Goodrich, and Paul Hopler.

Present, past, and future members of the Board of Directors including Fritz Ernst, Nan Peck, Carol Fagnani, Dick Robison, Dick Martin, and Bob Huley.

25th Anniversary Planning Team members Bonnie Hopler, chair, Huley, Fagnani, Martin, and

Betsy Pugin.

[Click here](#) for pictures (credit Fritz Ernst) of the presentation at Supervisor Walkinshaw's office and the Proclamation on our website.

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## In Memoriam

### George Chalou



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Long-time member and former LLI/NOVA President **George Chalou** passed away on April 25. George received a Ph.D. from Indiana University and taught American History at The Ohio State University. Following retirement from the National Archives after 28 years of service, he consulted for the United States Court of Military Appeals, the highest court for all United States uniformed personnel. In connection with the Court, his last publication, *A Pioneering Effort in Television: The United States Court of Military Appeals*, appeared in the 2006 issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. Following this publication, George conducted research on US-China relations during WWII.

George was very active and made many contributions during his years in LLI/NOVA. With his wife June, he joined LLI/NOVA in 2008. He was on the Board of Directors for four years, was Vice President for one year, and from July 2014 to June 2016 was President. He also served as our Archivist/Historian by providing guidance on records management and the disposition of temporary records. George was an active member of the Forum Committee for five years working with fellow committee members to bring enlightening topics to the general membership. An avid bridge player, he joined the Bridge Special Interest Group to enjoy his love of the game. George and June enjoyed traveling and joined the LLI Study/Travel group in 2017 on a Rhone River Cruise.

While George was President, LLI/NOVA employed a contractor to assist in developing our interactive website. Unfortunately, the contractor went out of business after we had paid them a fee. George took decisive action to recoup the money through Civil Court proceedings. Before the court proceedings began, the company agreed to reimburse LLI/NOVA \$3,000.

George also initiated what has come to be known as “In Memoriam” write-ups for our newsletter. He asked an LLI/NOVA member to write this column which not only informs the membership should someone pass away, but also provides an opportunity for members to express their own personal condolences to the family if they wish to do so.

George had many friends in LLI/NOVA and both his many contributions as well as his kindness and friendliness will be missed.

There will be a celebration of George Chalou’s, life on June 9 at 11:00 am at Saint Philip Catholic Church in Falls Church. The Chalou family invites LLI friends to join them for an Open House at their residence at 3348 Sheffield Court, Falls Church, immediately after the service. A light meal will be served. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to *Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources* in Fairfax or *Christ House* in Alexandria.

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## Suggested Questions for Journaling and Reflecting Post-Covid

For those interesting in journaling, consider two suggestions:

One came from an LLI/NOVA member who agreed to an interview by students who requested written responses. She said she was touched by the depth of the questions . . . and surprised at

how she responded as she wrote.

The second was offered by a member who was considering participating in a popular dementia memory intervention program called SAIDO Learning. SAIDO Learning is a working-memory training program that uses systematized basic problems in arithmetic and language. Participants are encouraged to read aloud and to write using cursive at least 30 minutes daily. See the National Institutes of Health website: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25528280>.

Consider saving your response as a memento for your successors to help them remember you.

Have fun. Best, Anna

- o What is the biggest challenge you have faced?
- o What was the hardest sacrifice you have made and why?
- o What is your biggest regret and why?
- o What are you most proud of?
- o What is your biggest weakness and what is your greatest strength?
- o How do you think your life experiences have affected you and shaped you as a person?
- o How have your choices impacted other people?
- o What is the most disloyal thing/choice you have done/made?
- o What is one thing you have been in denial about?
- o What was the most helpful or heroic thing you have done in your lifetime?
- o Name one way you’ve helped others without them knowing.

o If you had changed one choice or event in your life, what would be different now?

o If you could have only one wish in the world, what would it be?

o Who has been the greatest influence in your life and why?

o Who was your idol/icon growing up and has it changed?

o Is there a person you would do anything for in your life, and if so, who and what?

o What is the best advice you have received and from whom?

o What is your greatest fear and why?

lections at the Forums. Monetary donations are the best way for us to support the work of these organizations now. Remember, no check is too small or too large. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of others.

## Special Interest Groups



### Favorite Books Club

Thursday, June 17, 11:30 a.m.—  
1:00 p.m. (Zoom Meeting)



This month marks a departure from our usual format. We will be focusing instead on Summer Reads, a list of suggestions from SIG members of books to enjoy over our summer hiatus. We would like to share this with other LLI/NOVA members. If you are interested in seeing this list of Summer Reads, please visit the llinova.org website after June 24. Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone.



## Community Outreach

This month we would like to highlight two stellar organizations that are continuing to serve those in need. Both are voluntary organizations providing a food pantry as well as rental assistance, clothing, furniture and other services as needed.

ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) welcomes monetary donations. Checks may be written to ACCA Inc and mailed to ACCA, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.

ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) has many ways you can donate food or clothing items from their wish list, but again a check may be made payable to ECHO and mailed to ECHO, INC, 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA 22150.

Hopefully in the fall we can resume our food col-

## Financial Discussion



A Zoom meeting will be held on June 10 at 1 p.m. To be included [click here](#) for contact information for Doug Johnson. There will not be a meeting in July or August.

## Tabletop Games

Once again, the group will play Big Boggle on Zoom and Trivia via email on May 25. If you wish to join us [click here](#) for contact information for Mary Lu Bednarsky. We do plan to meet in some way during July and August.



**Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia**  
**Budget for Fiscal Year 2022**

(1 July 2021 through 30 June 2022)

<b>Income</b>	
Membership Dues	\$35,750
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon	3,000
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book	50
Class Fees	990
Interest	350
<b>Total Revenue</b>	
<b>\$40,140</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administrative Staff	\$20,096
Financial System	100
Honoraria	900
Insurance	1,450
Classroom Rent	1,600
Classroom Rent (Richard Risk Fund)	300
Ernst Center (forum/seminar rooms)	5,150
Office Supplies	1,100
Outside Printing	150
Postage/Mailing	250
Teaching Materials	1,300
Web Site Maintenance	1,400
Web Support – Follow On	2,000
Credit Card Expense	900
Refreshments	3,100
Miscellaneous	150
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
<b>\$39,946</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities	6,000
Taxes and Fees	50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	
<b>\$45,996</b>	
<b>Projected End of Year Balance</b>	<b>(\$5,856)</b>