

LLI/NOVA July Update

(Our monthly Forums and Newsletters are on a well-deserved July/August break)



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President's Message

I am honored to be writing to you as the new president of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia. I have been a member of LLI/NOVA for the past three years and have taken numerous classes and attended several of our forums but have not previously held a leadership position in our organization. Over the last several months my learning curve has been steep. I hadn't been aware, for instance, of our ten Special Interest Groups. Or the committee structure that recruits, promotes, and facilitates our forum speakers and class presenters; creates and edits our newsletters; plans our day trips and study travel programs; screens NOVA student applicants for financial assistance through our scholarship program; monitors our finances; and are planning our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Holiday Luncheon in December. I was also only vaguely aware of the work done by our Board of Directors and its dedicated officers. I plan to elaborate more on this in future newsletters and to make our membership aware of a myriad of volunteer opportunities available within our organization.

The pandemic continues to affect the way that LLI/NOVA can operate. We currently offer classes only via zoom and will continue to do so at least until the fall session. Our board has had numerous and ongoing discussions regarding when and how we will return to in-person classes and whether some classes will continue on zoom even after live classes begin. Our day-trip and study travel programs have been on hold and I am anxious to have them restart as soon as it is safe to do so (study travel will not begin before 2022). Most of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been inactive during the pandemic but many hope to reactivate soon. And most of the members with whom I have spoken are eagerly awaiting the time when we can again attend forums at the Ernst Center and socialize with friends and meet other LLI/NOVA members. LLI/NOVA's leadership will continue to communicate developments through our newsletter and other means.

As I begin this new adventure, I would like to thank a number of people. First to the "classmates" who recommended me for an LLI/NOVA leadership role. Then to the members of the nominating committee (and especially Chair, Loren Brandman) for their confidence in me and especially for their patience as I vetted our organization's mission for a match with my skills and interests. Also, to our board members, both experienced and brand new like myself, who have supported and encouraged me as I considered shouldering this responsibility. Finally, and certainly not least, to immediate past president, Anna Dixon. I suspect that most of our membership are not aware of the work that she has done over the past three years. Anna negotiated a new contract with NOVA, keeping our rent affordable. She spent countless hours recruiting and coordinating our incredibly high-quality forums and forum facilitators. She has worked tirelessly to promote our programs and membership growth. And, of course, she has led our organization through the pandemic and all the changes that this has entailed. Anna has been extremely helpful in orienting me to the President's roles and responsibilities, has included me in activities to familiarize me with our organization and has responded timely to my questions.

Derick Malis



A Few Highlights/Special Mentions

- The Chalou family sends a warm thank you to LLI/NOVA members who expressed condolences on the loss of past president George Chalou. We are told that family members were impressed with the large contingent of LLI/NOVA who attended services and repast at the Chalou residence. The Red, Hot and Blue meal was a hit.
- Betsy Pugin and her Community Outreach team remind us of those in our community struggling for food, and that many faith congregations lead assistance efforts. There is no need to have an affiliation with the congregation. These are two of the congregation-based food pantries that LLI/NOVA supported in the past. You might consider assisting them now with food or monetary donations. Please put “Food Pantry” in the memo line of your check.

St. Matthews UMC – 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale VA 22003. This is located near the campus and has hosted classroom space in the past.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church – 2700 South 19th St., Arlington VA 22204

THANK YOU!

- July 14th is the Board Retreat...suggestions and comments are welcome. Contact any Board member or send an email to our admin email.
- Now it is easier than ever to participate in some of our ticketed outings! In our 2021-22 program year you can sign up and pay for your tickets online. This new payment-related registration capability is anticipated for many LLI outings (e.g., SIGs, day trips).
- Note the below for negotiated events thus far. Also, we are thrilled that several will have lead up class(es) prior to the outing. For example, we have confirmed a one- or two-part LLI class *prior* to attending Drumfolk at the

Save These Dates!

- July 14th Retreat
- Sep 1 Monthly Forums resume
- Oct 28: **Hadestown@ KC**
- Nov 12: **Concerto for Two Pianos@KC**
- Dec 2021 Holiday Luncheon and 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Jan 21: **Beethoven’s Fourth /KC**
- Feb 18: **Haydn & Farrenc/KC**
- Mar/April: **Merchant of Venice/Shakespeare**
- April: Step Afrika Class re **Drumfolk/ LLI/NOVA**
- May 20: **Langree conducts Bolero /KC**
- June TBD/ **Drumfolk/Arena Stage**

Arena Stage. A LLI member connected us with long-term StepAfrika Board member, Ann Belkin, to provide us with this opportunity. Somewhat similarly, the Kennedy Center staff is searching for a presenter for a class prior to us attending Hadestown. In most instances we must have a minimum contingent of 20 to take advantage of group discounts and must purchase early. Equally important, using our website facilitates our ability to arrange carpools and/or schedule group Metro meetups or Uber shuttles. WooHoo!

<u>Event/Title</u>	<u>Related LLI Event</u>	<u>Date and Venue (mostly matinees)</u>
<p>Hadestown A love story for today...and always. Hadestown is winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.</p>	<p>Pending confirmation from KC that a cast member will present to LLI via Zoom class prior to</p>	<p>10/28/2021 @1:30pm Kennedy Center</p>
<p>The Merchant of Venice Shakespeare’s remarkable exploration of justice returns to the nation’s capital, stoking the debate on what is right, what is fair, and what is lawful—and who gets to decide. Tony Award nominee John Douglas Thompson, “one of the most compelling classical stage actors of his generation” (<i>The New York Times</i>), will grace the stage as Shakespeare’s most enigmatic antihero, Shylock.</p>	<p>Meetup to carpool</p>	<p>Mar/April Shakespeare</p>
<p>Katia & Marielle Labèque play Dessner’s Concerto for Two Pianos Renowned sibling pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque, who The New York Times credits with having “transformed the piano duo,” perform a piece composed especially for them: Bryce Dessner’s Concerto for Two Pianos.</p>	<p>Meetup in the KC cafeteria at 11am for coffee</p>	<p>11/12/2021 @11:30 Kennedy Center</p>
<p>Nosedá conducts William Grant Still & Beethoven’s Fourth Symphony Gianandrea Nosedá pairs Beethoven’s Fourth with the Fourth Symphony by William Grant Still—the first Black composer to have a symphony performed by a leading orchestra (Rochester Philharmonic) and to conduct a major American symphony orchestra (Los Angeles Philharmonic).</p>	<p>Meetup in the KC cafeteria at 11am for coffee</p>	<p>1/21/2022 @11:30 Kennedy Center</p>
<p>Nosedá conducts Haydn & Farrenc NSO principal musicians take the spotlight in Haydn’s Sinfonia Concertante. Then, Nosedá conducts the energetic Third Symphony by Louise Farrenc. Though often overlooked, Farrenc flourished at the center of 19th century Parisian music—admired in her lifetime as a brilliant teacher, scholar, and composer.</p>	<p>Meetup in the KC cafeteria at 11am for coffee</p>	<p>2/28/2022 @ 11:30 Kennedy Center</p>

Louis Langrée conducts Boléro

Few composers better demonstrate the rich texture of sound than French masters Debussy and Ravel. In this program, Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun reveals Debussy's groundbreaking harmonic style. Then, Ravel's critique on the popular Waltz form pairs perfectly with his rapturous, ever-building Boléro.

Meetup in the KC cafeteria at 11am for coffee

5/20/2022 @ 11:30
Kennedy Center

Drumfolk

Electrifying percussive dance fused with contemporary art forms fuels StepAfrika!'s latest production, Drumfolk, inspired by the Stono Rebellion of 1739 and the Negro Act of 1740 in South Carolina. State laws mandated that enslaved Africans could not assemble or use their drums which were used to signal the uprising. They took away the drums, but they could not stop the beat. This is the rich and "inspiring" (New York Times) story of a movement that could not be stopped and transformed African American culture from **then to the present day.**

Spring LLI Class presented by a playwright and a board member of StepAfrika; 11:30am snack bar meetup at Arena pre-show

06/14/2022 @ Noon
Arena Stage; plus an immediate post event discussion with a playwright!