

## LLI/NOVA August Update

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



*Kathy Dillon*

### President's Message

I hope that you have been able to attend one or more of our recent monthly forums. Although all forums and classes have been conducted remotely since the onset of the pandemic, they have been offered by high-caliber presenters and have been extremely informative.

In April, David K. Owens, President/Energy Consultant with Da' Vision and Strategies, discussed power grid issues in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017 and by the winter storm in Texas earlier this year. In May, Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer for Fairfax County, described how Fairfax is trying to offer services equitably through its One Fairfax Policy. And in June, Daniel Piazza, Curator of Philately at the U.S. Postal Museum, told attendees about "Stories Behind the Stamps," his museum's collection and how exhibits are put together while providing little-known history of Washington and its architecture.

Our next forum will be September 1 when Dr. Madhavi Colton of the Coral Reef Alliance will present.

We are expanding our Forum Committee and plan to return to live forums as soon as possible. If you have ideas regarding future forum topics/presenters, or would like to join the committee, contact the Forum Committee Chair, Patti Volz.

Did you know that LLI/NOVA members provided \$25,000 of scholarship assistance to students at Northern Virginia Community College last year? The LLI Scholarship Program helps high-achieving, low-income students at the Annandale campus.

An April 2, 2021, New York Times article reported the following: "Colleges of all types are struggling under the shadow of the coronavirus, but the nation's community college system has been disproportionately hurt, with tens of thousands of students being forced to delay school or drop out because of the pandemic and the

economic crisis it has created.”

“Enrollment is down 9.5 percent at the more than 1,000 two-year colleges in the United States compared with numbers from last spring, according to the National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit organization that found a similar drop last fall. That is more than double the loss experienced by four-year schools.

“Community college enrollment among Black and Hispanic students has declined even more sharply, with a 19 percent drop from fall 2019 to fall 2020 among Black students and a 16 percent drop among Hispanic students. Of the nation’s five million students enrolled at community colleges, about 40 percent are Black or Latino and nearly half are low-income, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.”

You can learn about and donate to LLI/NOVA’s Scholarship Program by going to the home page, clicking “scholarship program” and scrolling down to the “donate” button.

In my next President’s Message I will summarize for our membership the decisions made at this year’s annual board retreat. Probably of most interest will be when we will reopen for live classes, forums, SIG’s (Special Interest Groups), day trips and study-travel. However, we will be addressing other important issues such as our committee structure, responsibilities, and leadership. And, importantly, we will discuss growing LLI/NOVA’s membership back to the pre-pandemic levels that we have maintained in recent years.

Please contact me if you have ideas to further LLI’s mission or would like to become involved.

Derick Malis  
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## Save These Dates!

(Limited # of reduced priced tickets are being sold now via or website now)

- Oct 28: **Hadestown@ KC**
- Nov 12: **Concerto for Two Pianos@KC**
- Dec 2021 Holiday Luncheon and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Jan 21: **Beethoven’s Fourth /KC**
- Feb 18: **Haydn & Farrenc/KC**
- Mar/Apr: **Merchant of Venice/Shakespeare**
- Apr: Step Afrika Class re **Drumfolk/ LLINOVA**
- May 20: **Langree conducts Bolero /KC**
- Jun 14/ **Drumfolk/Arena Stage**

## A Few Highlights/Special Mentions

Save the date for the *Sep 1 Forum via Zoom* →



A rare opportunity to learn about Coral Reefs: their importance, their challenges, and possible solutions:

- Coral Reefs. Out of sight, out of mind. Yet half a billion people around the world depend on coral reefs for food, their livelihoods, and shelter from natural disasters.
- 25% of all marine species depend upon coral reefs for food and shelter. Corals reefs face unprecedented challenges and destruction due to climate change, acidification, pollution and more.

What can be done? Dr. Madhavi Colton, Executive Director of the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) will be our September Forum speaker and will address these issues.

### LLI/NOVA Scholarship Annual Program

Last year, LLI awarded scholarships of \$5,000 and \$2,500 to several high-performing Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) students. These scholarships were a lifeline to students in the difficult time of the Covid pandemic. Despite some emergency government funding that was available to NOVA, 280 students applied for our scholarships through the Office of Student Financial Aid. In 2021, LLI will provide additional scholarships for deserving and needy NOVA students. With the emergency government funding coming to an end, many students will experience even more financial stress than last year. The more money we can raise from LLI member contributions, the more students we can help. We encourage LLI's members to contribute to this long running and exceptionally beneficial scholarship program.

### Community Outreach

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 19<sup>th</sup> St., Arlington VA 22204

THANK YOU!

## Social Hosts Needed **Now!**



- LLI/NOVA members have a unique opportunity to get to know 36 visiting students from 11 developing countries under the U.S. Department of State's [Community College Initiative \(CCI\) Program](#), administered by NOVA. The students participate in a fully funded scholarship to spend up to one academic year at a U.S. community college.
- The students hope to strengthen their English language proficiency and to 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 social and economic development of their home countries.
- This are several opportunities for LLI/NOVA members to get to know these students on a personal level and to hear about the situations they faced for an opportunity to learn in the United States. Do not miss these chances to engage with these students while their impressions of our culture 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.”*
- Each of LLI’s eight “Fireside Chats” (use our website and register *now*) will be held on Sundays from 7 – 8:30 p.m.; each session featuring a deep dive on the students’ home country begins with a country overview PowerPoint presentation by the students before the LLI/NOVA host opens the event for interactive discussion.

**Consider hosting one of these students, by contacting Sara Mohamed in NOVA’s Office of International Education and Sponsored Programs: [samohamed@nvcc.edu](mailto:samohamed@nvcc.edu) Hosts are needed.**

## LLI/NOVA SIGs Are Now Meeting In Person!



LLI/NOVA Members at the Baltimore Innovation Museum

### MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

- Great News! The Mystery Book Club will be resuming its monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m at the Kings Park Library. All are welcome especially those sleuths who enjoy a good mystery and discussions about it! Mary Lu et al are looking forward to seeing you when they resume August 2.

### TABLE TOP GAMES

- This small group of avid table top game players and will be resuming their monthly games on July 27 at Kings Park Library. All are encouraged to join, especially those with a great interest playing familiar games in a very congenial atmosphere. You will have a good time and lots of laughs. First timers are welcome!

For further information on these two SIGs please contact Mary Lu Bednarsky

### PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

- The Photography SIG will meet in Braddock Hall at the Braddock District Government Office on July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12.

### FOODIES & FRIENDS

- This group were the “early outs”. They resumed in person meetings July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### BRIDGE AND OTHER SIGs RESUME IN-PERSON MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

