



History of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia

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Dedication

In Memory of and with thanks for the Gift from Richard Risk

By Bonnie Hopler

Richard Risk, who died in December 2017, gave a generous gift to LLI/NOVA in his will. His generosity made possible the publication of this history book, which celebrates the initial 25 years of the organization and anticipates the future of LLI/NOVA. Richard was a Charter member in 1996 and active in all aspects of the organization.

He was a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia, served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and then joined the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, becoming its Executive Director. In 1995, he retired from the Environmental Protection Agency after serving 24 years in the Civil Rights Office and the Office of Grants Administration.

Richard had a very busy and rewarding retirement. He was Director of Volunteers at Northern Virginia Community College and taught many popular courses for LLI/NOVA, ranging from Science for Non-Scientists and Why People Believe Weird Things to Poetry and You. He not only established the Poetry and You class, he also organized the Valentine's Day Social, which evolved into the Spring Fling Open House. The last of these was held in 2019.

He was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society and served eight years as a member of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging, including two years as Chair. He traveled extensively, spent many hours on the tennis and pickleball courts with friends, traveled around the West on his motorcycle and co-owned a plane, among other adventures. He was a master at keeping in touch with friends and bringing people together, and had a talent for appreciating people, bringing out their best and making them feel valued.

We are grateful for his memorial gift.



CHAPTER 1 "Celebrate" our Beginning

It Is Here, It Is Now: In Our 25th Year, We Continue to Celebrate and Anticipate

This publication is the last installment of the look-back featured in our newsletters over the past year, along with significant events and highlights in the life of LLI/NOVA. The content is instructive and enlightening.

Our status and celebration build on our early members who prepared the pathway forward. Their spirit transcends. As a result, LLI/NOVA is now a powerful force and continues to be a great value and key influence among seniors in Northern Virginia looking for lifetime learning.

Like other organizations with a focus on learning for those age 50-plus, LLI/NOVA provides many educational, social and travel opportunities. Such meaningful activities are energizing and make us feel happier and healthier by improving quality of life and well-being. This ranges from better memory and self-esteem to reduced stress and increased social interaction.

However, the keystone that elevates LLI/NOVA above others is that we are fundamentally a volunteer-driven organization, delivering services at a modest membership fee – one that has increased only once in 25 years! Volunteerism and member engagement is the spark that keeps our brain active and helps us feel less isolated and more engaged with the world.

Our growth mindset is the engine that drives our webmasters, newsletter editors, treasurers, class presenters and coordinators in a breadth of fields, travel and day-trip coordinators, and special interest group leaders, to name a few. Moreover, our curriculum committee and NOVA liaison blend and perform like a seasoned college registrar's office.

It is thrilling to celebrate our shared unique experience through LLI/NOVA.

Anna Dixon President





On behalf of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), I offer congratulations to the Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI/NOVA) as it celebrates its 25th anniversary!

We have been partners since the very beginnings of LLI, which started in 1996 when Knox Singleton and Audrey Markham met with NOVA President Richard Ernst. Dr. Ernst understood the vision for LLI, and the partnership they founded created the first such program on a community college campus in Virginia.

Over the past 25 years, NOVA has hosted LLI/NOVA's monthly forums, classes, and an office for the program on one of our campuses. NOVA faculty even teach a number of LLI/NOVA classes. Our relationship has grown to the benefit of both entities, and the longevity of the partnership speaks to its value and significance.

NOVA is especially grateful to LLI/NOVA for establishing a Student Scholarship Program at the NOVA Educational Foundation, dedicating these funds to our Annandale Campus. Over the years, LLI/NOVA members have donated almost \$200,000 to scholarships that offer much needed financial support to our students. This investment in NOVA students is much appreciated and reflects LLI/NOVA's positive relationship with our college and the spirit of learning that is at the heart of the LLI mission.

I wish you continued success as you celebrate the organization's first 25 years and look forward to all that the future holds.

Anne M. Kress, PhD. President of Northern Virginia Community College



25th Anniversary Planning Team



Mary Lu Bednarsky Photography Tabletop Games

Anna Dixon Visual and Performing Arts

Carol Fagnani Trips Program (domestic)

Bonnie Hopler, Chair Holiday Party and Lunch Bunch

Bob Huley Bridge Group

Doug Johnson Financial Discussion Group

Linda LeDuc Poetry Classes **Richard Martin** Scholarship Program

Kathryn O'Toole Poetry Classes

Betsy Pugin Community Outreach

Lynne Smaldone Favorite Books Club

Richard Steelman French Conversation

Patti Volz Board of Directors Foodies & Friends



Formation

By Mary Jablonski

The establishment of LLI/NOVA occurred at the confluence of three guiding forces.

In the 1980s, a strong movement evolved for the continuing education of seniors in a non-credit collaborative environment, organized nationally as the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN).



J. Knox Singleton

J. Knox Singleton, Chairman of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging, had already promoted development of an organization associated with George Mason University, which was limited to 400 members at that time. Since he saw a larger need, he joined with Audrey Markham, an EIN representative, to meet with Dr. Richard Ernst, President of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) system, to find agreement and enthusiasm for a cooperative endeavor.

At a meeting of all interested seniors on November 25, 1995, a Steering Committee was organized to plan its development and to write a Virginia State Charter, which was subsequently approved on March 27, 1996. The names of the original 38 charter members follow this article.

Pictured right is a bench dedicated to J. Knox Singleton, founder and first president. The Board of Directors donated and dedicated this gift to Knox when he was named President Emeritus in September 2001. It was placed on the NVCC campus in front of the CS building and was later moved to the grounds of the Vinson Hall Retirement Community when Knox and his wife, Marjorie, moved there.



The original structure of the LLI/NOVA organization continues today with a 15member Board of Directors who serve three-year terms and four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) who serve one-year terms.

During our organization's early development, the EIN provided ideas on how to organize and provide conferences with similar LLIs for brainstorming. We remain part of the Network, now known as Road Scholar LLI Resource Network, with more than 400 affiliates; however, we operate completely independently. An interesting aside is that Road Scholar refers to the LLIs as Lifelong Learning Institutes instead of the Lifetime Learning Institute name we chose.

Chapter 2 of this book describes in greater detail the formation of basic administrative and programmatic functions.

In September 1997, LLI/NOVA offered 23 classes in its fall program, in addition to the Forum lecture series, in NOVA's Ernst Center. Since the Annandale campus was smaller and more crowded at that time, most of the classes were located offsite at churches and other venues. In the early days, most of the Forum lectures featured Open House meetings with invitations sent to potential members.

There was an LLI/NOVA local Travel Program and a Travel/Study group from the beginning. Eight members journeyed to see Istanbul and cruise through the Greek Isles in the 1997 Travel/Study program.

Service to the college began with assistance to English as a Second Language (ESL) summer students in a total immersion program. The NOVA Lyceum program invited LLI/NOVA members to attend its offerings. In November 1997, the organization ventured into television with Wyatt McGinnis, Jr., and his Channel 10 show. In Spring 1999, we made our first Student Scholarship Award of \$1,000 to a NOVA student. By November 1999, we had 180 members, mostly from referrals by original members. Additional social functions are described in Chapter 3.

By 2000, we had four SIGs, which were then called Board and Card Games, Discussion Group (Current Events), Investment Group and Theater Group. Our 10th Anniversary Luncheon was held at Greenspring Village in May 2006 with 198 members and friends attending. The Elderhostel Institute Network reprinted our article on the celebration to assist other LLIs with their planning for similar events.



The LLI/NOVA Logo



Who designed the original logo when the organization began? That has been lost to history but we will credit the early organizers for the simple and straightforward design. The original logo was used until a new one was introduced by President George Chalou on July 1, 2015.

During a contest held the previous spring, six entrants submitted designs. The winning design was submitted by Meaghan McCall, the daughter of LLI/NOVA members, Peg and Jim McCall. Meaghan donated her prize of a one-year membership to LLI/NOVA to her mother.

The tagline to our logo reads Active Adults*Inspired Learning*Travel*Friendship. That was true 25 years ago and is just as true today.



Active Adults • Inspired Learning Travel • Friendship We had 36 classes in our fall program, and dues were raised to the current \$110. We added SIGs for Arts & Smarts and Walkabouts. Student scholarship awards totaled \$9,000. Development of SIGs, which continue today as a special sub-function for interested members, is described in Chapter 4.

In 2017, the Favorite Books Club assumed responsibility for collecting children's books to be donated to a local organization after a successful collection at the prior year's holiday party.

Beginning in January 2019, a nearly five-year effort managed by the Automation Committee produced the current website, which is outstanding in its ability to provide an online catalog and registration for classes and special events; to accept and process credit card fees for special events, membership dues, and donations for programs such as scholarships; a members-only section; and a wealth of information available with a few clicks. Many of the same or similar programs continue today, sometimes under different names.

In 2019, in response to requests in an online member survey, Tabletop Games and Mystery Books were added as new Special Interest Groups. In additional service to the college, some LLI/NOVA members volunteered to become social hosts to international students who are part of NOVA's Community College Initiative (CCI) Program.

In 2020, the NVCC Provost's Office suggested that LLI link its scholarship program to the NOVA Educational Foundation, a non-profit partner that standardizes the application process and selects potential awardees using donor-specified selection criteria. We agreed and met our goal of \$25,000 in 2021 to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

In February 2020, Anna Dixon's President's Message in the monthly newsletter included the term "dynamics of change"... but in April in-person programs were cancelled as the coronavirus pandemic spread. Under Dick Robison's lead, LLI converted its classes and Forums to interactive online programs using Zoom software.

During the pandemic, our previous membership of 385+ declined as potential members decided to await future progress on the virus vaccinations or have made significant lifestyle changes. When in-person classes and travel can resume, membership should rebound as our offerings are unique and cost is held relatively low due to the value added by volunteers. We stayed true to our earliest purposes and modernized where needed.



CHARTER MEMBERS 1996

JoAnn Becker Ruth Beebe Shirley Bounds Lorna Bruno Helen Clark Kamal Fayad Anna Fish Anne Grunwald Gordon Hamlet Trudy Hynes Warren Hynes Anne Keightley Yereth Knowles Nina Lawrence Evelyn Liddell Nan Liner Alice Maguire Gladys Mann William Mann

Audrey Markham Sullivan Kathleen Mauer Alan Mayer Alice McGuire Edward McGuire Mary Montgomery Jean Packard Mary Quirk Carmela Reeves Phillip Reeves Nadine Rier **Richard Risk** Knox Singleton Marjorie Singleton Karen Skrivseth Louise Sousk George Staten Walter Stewart Dell Vinogradov

PRESIDENTS

Knox Singleton

(deceased) Founder and President 1996 – 1999

Alan Mayer (deceased) President 1999 – 2001

Lorin Goodrich President 2001-2004

Norma Hughes President 2004 – 2007

Dick DiBuono President 2007 – 2009 Paul Hopler President 2009 - 2012

Ed McKnight President 2012 - 2014

George Chalou (deceased) President 2014 - 2016

Scott Pinckney President 2016 - 2018



An impressive picture of LLI/NOVA Presidents taken in January 2017. They have all helped to shape our organization into the great one that it is today, and we thank them. Seated is Norma Hughes. Standing (l to r) are Ed McKnight, George Chalou, Dick DiBuono, Paul Hopler, Scott Pinckney and Lorin Goodrich (photo by Moe Moser). No longer with us are Knox Singleton, Alan Mayer and George Chalou



Anna Dixon President 2018 -- present





WHEREAS, the Lifetime Learning Institute was proposed by Audrey Markham and Knox Singleton in the fall of 1995, gaining the support of Dr. Richard J. Ernst, President of the Northern Virginia Community College system that September, and was chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia on March 27, 1996, and formally organized with 38 charter members on June 30, 1996; and

WHEREAS, founding president Knox Singleton, and succeeding presidents and members of the Board of Directors, have led the organization through over 25 years of growth and service; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Lifetime Learning Institute, celebrating its 25th Silver Anniversary, has always shown a friendly welcome and a heartfelt desire to provide continuing educational and cultural opportunities to individuals of all backgrounds and income levels who are 50 years of age or older;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County and the Braddock District, does hereby proclaim May 4, 2021, as

Lifetime Learning Institute NOVA Day

in Fairfax County and congratulates the officers and membership on the 25th anniversary of its founding and for their noteworthy service to Fairfax County and the Braddock District community.

McK Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman

At-Large

May 4, 2021 Date





presents a Proclamation to Anna Dixon, President, proclaiming May 4, 2021, as Lifetime Learning Institute NOVA DAY in recognition of the 25th anniversary



Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock District), Anna Dixon, Lorin Goodrich and Paul Hopler

Memories of Long-Time Members

Lorin Goodrich

My wife, Janet, and I joined LLI/NOVA during the spring of 1998 on the recommendation of friends who had joined a year earlier. We have enjoyed many academic and social experiences since then.

LLI/NOVA has grown in many ways since its start in 1996 with 38 founding members. It was apparent to me soon after joining there was a substantial need for all members to volunteer their time, energy and talents if the organization was to sustain itself and grow in membership. There was minimal support from NOVA-Annandale initially, other than offering some campus meeting spaces and a small office. Arrangements for off-campus classroom space were up to us. I was impressed by the volunteer spirit of the organization's early members, so I volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors starting in 1999 and eventually assumed the role of vice president (2000) and president (2001-2004). It was a rewarding experience.

LLI/NOVA's class offerings have expanded in numbers and variety over the years. I am proud to have been a part of developing a strong relationship with the college faculty, primarily from the Annandale campus. Our organization has gradually gained the support of the college's administration (president, Annandale campus provost, and deans) who have encouraged the faculty to conduct classes for LLI/NOVA at no additional cost to us. Our robust curriculum is supported by many members who coordinate with the faculty and other instructors and also take on associated administrative tasks. Additionally, talented members, assisted by a very able part-time paid administrator, have created a user-friendly electronic class registration process and an attractive website. Their efforts to arrange for virtual classes using Zoom have been a great help during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

In addition to learning a wide range of subjects through classes, Forum talks and special interest groups, we have had many opportunities for socialization during trips arranged and led by LLI members. We have fond memories of traveling domestically and internationally (e.g. World War II memorial in Bedford, Virginia; homes of the rich and famous on Long Island, New York; Washington's crossing of the Delaware River from Trenton, New Jersey; museums, European river cruises, Canadian Rockies, Scotland, northern alpine villages, South America, Portugal and Sicily, to name a few). The annual holiday luncheon is always a highlight. Annual summer picnics at Mason District Park and Fort Ward Park were fun while they lasted.

LLI/NOVA can be proud that it has endured as a member-managed and volunteer-driven educational institute for so many years, offering classes and other educational opportunities for more than 300 members at an affordable cost. Janet and I have benefited greatly and look forward to being a part of this journey for many years to come.



Edward Mark

Louise Sousk Founded the Trips Program

Louise was an organizer. She arranged about 100 trips during 11 years. About the first half of that time she did not have a committee but planned all the day trips herself. When she did get a committee, I had to keep reminding her that the committee was not a democracy.

There were no travel company packaged tours. She chartered buses from the list of approved companies for Fairfax County Public Schools. She required an insurance certificate for each trip from every company's insurance agent, naming LLI/NOVA as a beneficiary of the company's liability insurance.

The first overnight trip was to the Lynchburg area. The Board gave Louise an LLI/NOVA credit card but did not establish an adequate credit limit on the account. Personal credit cards paid for the dinner and the next day for the hotel.

After that trip, Louise realized that she should have professional help with overnight trips. One of the bus companies told her about a woman named Irene in Reston doing business as Washington Landmark Tours. Irene specialized in organizing school group travel to the Washington area. Louise would tell Irene where she wanted to go and what she wanted to do and see, and Irene would plan a trip. Irene always included too much in her plans. Louise and I went over each proposal minute by minute and always made deletions. LLI/NOVA members do not move as fast as schoolchildren.

There were usually two overnight trips a year. During Louise's tenure there were also two cruises. When Louise stopped doing trips, she left instructions in the office on how to organize and lead day and overnight trips.



Eda Pickholtz

Eda joined in 1998 and remains an active participant and cheerleader to this day.

I think LLI/NOVA was always worth multiple times the dues we had to pay. I loved the forums and the lunches John Bogart organized after the forums. We often went to the Pan Am Family Restaurant, Elaine and John Bogart's favorite. I especially loved the day trips organized by Louise Sousk. I always took part in the poetry group, where Richard Risk was so welcoming to the attendees. He would occasionally invite a poet to visit us.

The poetry group began hosting Valentine's Day parties many years ago, free for all LLI/NOVA members. They were always held in the bright, spacious room at the Little River United Church of Christ with Richard as the genial MC for many years. I can see him now with his red bow tie. The program consisted of a fellowship time, poetry, of course, jokes and a singalong with a pianist.

The food and decorations were fantastic every year. We had balloons, hearts and fresh flowers, all from the poetry group members. Because of the uncertainty of the weather in February, and too many close calls because of the weather, we switched to a spring party in April.

Other special memories:

- A lovely trip to Bermuda organized by Louise Sousk
- An interesting river cruise, organized by the Bogarts, which went from Bucharest to Vienna
- Picnics at Alexandria and Mount Vernon area parks, which Leah Porzell organized with help from other members
- Many beautiful holiday lunches at the Country Club of Fairfax.



CHAPTER 2 Administration and Functions

ADMINISTRATORS

By Bonnie Hopler

The administrative duties of LLI/NOVA began with its inception. Initially, volunteers under the direction of Martie Klee performed all the work. Laura Charron joined in January 1997 and began working on membership in the office with fellow volunteers Phil Reeves and Louise Sousk. Then Laura began helping with the program and catalog.

The organization grew rapidly and it became apparent that a paid administrator was necessary. Laura Charron was the first administrator, beginning in June 1997. When founder Knox Singleton stepped down as president in 1999, he credited Laura as "a master of office administration who has been heavily involved in helping to keep program development, membership and course registration records in order.

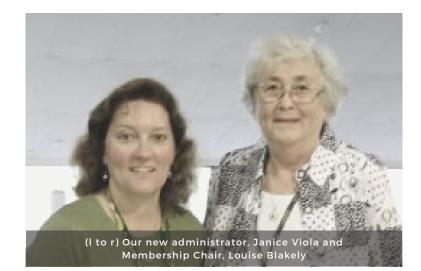


(I to r) Dick DiBuono, Laura Charron, Phil Runge

as well as preparing and handling of publications and mailings, keeping office equipment in proper operation, and handling telephone, fax and e-mail communications." Laura left the position in 2015.

Colletta Hammond, a long-time volunteer in the office, helped with all the administrative duties, including mailing the newsletter and filling in when Laura was away. Martie Klee continued to volunteer when extra hands were needed.

Janice Viola has been administrator since September 2015 and is known for her work ethic, attention to detail, and friendliness to all. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University, she was a programmer analyst at Booze Allen Hamilton. When she and her husband became the parents of three sons, Janice chose to remain at home but volunteered extensively in her community.



LLI/NOVA President Anna Dixon calls Janice the "glue" that holds LLI/NOVA together. "She possesses a gifted ability to step back and assess the big picture before diving into a task or project, thereby making the effort efficient and fluid for all involved. She also has a demonstrated expertise to master almost any project from start to finish with little or no oversight."

Board of Directors

By Patti Volz

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, approves budgets and oversees 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 administrative decisions, and serves as archivist of LLI/NOVA. There are several standing committees under the Board. The officers and the Immediate Past President constitute the Executive Committee, which exercises the authority of the Board of Directors between regular Board meetings.

The Budget and Finance Committee is comprised 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 are named by the chairpersons.



Members of the Board 2020-2021

Anna Dixon, President Patti Volz, Vice President Loren Brandman, Secretary Fritz Ernst, Treasurer June Chalou Dina Cotlier Robert Huley Mary Jablonski Richard Martin Patrick Neri Nan Peck Scott Pinckney Richard Robison Patricia Steelman Richard Steelman





Members of the Board 1999



Board members who attended the Retreat at the Greenspring Community for all-day discussions on August 20, 1999, are (back row, left to right) Jack Barringer, Lorin Goodrich, Philip Reeves, Knox Singleton, and Marjorie Clark; (center row, left to right) Gordon Hamlet, Ted Krivoruchka, Helen Clark, Alan Mayer (president), George Staten; (front row, left to right) Laura Charron, Martie Klee, and Louise Sousk. Richard Risk, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, took the photo

Community Outreach

By Betsy Pugin

As LLI/NOVA celebrates its 25th anniversary, Community Outreach Food Pantry folks would like to look down memory lane. Efforts to support the community through food collections go back in time and have helped many of the same charities which we still assist.

Carol Weber and Betty Lee Thatcher had volunteered for ACCA in Annandale and were very aware of the needs in the community. So when the Outreach chair was moving, around 2008, they stepped up to coordinate the monthly food pantry efforts at the Forums. It took strong arms and wheeled carts to carry on the mission. When Betty Lee was unable to continue, Marianne Moerman helped carry on with Carol Weber. There were others prior to these women, including Jane Jones, but the newsletters do not give all the chronological dates of service of these caring people.

It is notable to point out that LLI/NOVA relied on its volunteers from the beginning, as now. If a member had an interest in a particular food pantry and was willing to be the contact and delivery person, that pantry would be included on the monthly collection list. Some of the charity groups we assist at this time were served in the past also. Groups such as FACETS, ACCA, ECHO, and Food for Others have long been recipients of our collections. A number of local churches have food pantries and have been recipients.

Several years ago, Martie Klee realized there was food insecurity among some NOVA students. Some have families to support, sometimes with only one breadwinner at home. So, a liaison was formed with Dr. Jayatilake as a contact person for their pantry. Until the pandemic, the NOVA student pantry was served by LLI/NOVA twice a year at Forum collections.





Curriculum Committee

By Paul Hopler and Dick Robison

LLI/NOVA was formed to present educational information to senior citizens. The Curriculum Committee was a key component of the organization.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Initially Knox Singleton and Alan Mayer led a small program committee. Later Doris Balinsky took over as chair, doing all the editing. She was followed by Norma Hughes, who left the position to become president. Paul Hopler served for four years, also left the position to become president, then returned as chair for 18 months. Subsequent chairs were Mary Underwood, Gina Trapp, Doug Johnson and currently Richard Robison.

CATALOG

In the early stages we simply listed available courses. Later these were compiled into a booklet known as the Program or Catalog. Input was often handwritten or prepared on dot-matrix printers. Members, including Laura Charron, Beverly Portman, and Doris Balinsky, would format the material, type it and edit it. Many hours of committee meetings were spent discussing punctuation, grammar, layout and choice of words (instructor, leader, professor or facilitator). Al Brothers, who typed the final draft into a publishing program, also prepared a calendar to facilitate usage. He selected bios, locations, and other information appropriate for that semester. Using a copying place such as Kinko's, hundreds of bound copies were printed for delivery to the LLI/NOVA office.

In 2008, with members more comfortable with the advanced technology, we switched to completely using Word, Excel, and email, with a standardized format. The information was transmitted to Al Brothers and then to a printer, who prepared the mailing documents. There was a tremendous saving of time and cost. In 2018, with the change to on-line presentation, we changed the format to Access and eliminated the document printing altogether. This involved a key effort by Richard Robison to completely revise our layouts and procedures. Key to the editing and compilation were Doris Balinsky, Laura Charron, Janice Hulick, Gina Trapp, Salli Wise, Mary Underwood, Philippa Centini, Kim Rendelson, Blanche Goulet, Carol Jeffords, Chris Suskiewicz, Janet Liebenau and Virginia Fernbach.

SPACE LOCATION

Originally it was understood that NOVA would not make classroom space available. For a while, the Ernst Cultural Center did make some rooms available, and currently more vacant rooms are provided, but LLI/NOVA always has sought places to meet. Earlier, the Board appointed a person to find space, but in a short time this fell to the Curriculum Committee. Some places we used from the earliest time include Annandale United Methodist Church, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Little River United Church of Christ, Mason District Government Center, Meadowlark Gardens and the Virginian, Goodwin House and Greenspring Village retirement communities. Key people to make this work were Alan Mayer, Lorin Goodrich, Ed Sadtler, Clint Hall, Paul Hopler, Barry Newman, Debi Hunsberger, Pat Daniels and Moe Moser, who served for more than 12 years.

COORDINATORS

A vital aspect of the Curriculum Committee is the use of course coordinators who plan the course, take administrative actions, select the date, support and introduce the speaker, monitor the class, take attendance and comments and arrange for thanks to the speaker. These people may not be formal members of the committee but provide a vital extension to the committee's work.

PRESENTATION OF AUDIO VISUALS

During early years, large flip charts and slide projectors were made available for instructors. We moved to an overhead projector with vellum sheets and a screen to project charts, then an LED projector from a computer screen. From this, we moved to provide a portable projector for screen-showing from the speaker's computer or slides on a CD ROM, DVD, memory card or thumb drive. PowerPoint was just getting underway, and we had presentations in Word, Open Office, Adobe pdf and other presentation software.

As the Internet became more common, we arranged access by the speaker during the presentation. History instructor Michael Anderson used the Internet for the class members to interact with an expert in Poland. We also obtained a classroom speaker/amplifier and remote microphone.

Our first Zoom presentation was in 2018 with a speaker in Colorado and interaction from class members. Currently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all courses are presented electronically via Zoom off location.

TRAVELING

We quickly began to support members' interest in travel. During LLI/NOVA's early years, Alan Mayer and John Bogart organized courses discussing where to go and trips taken. Doris Balinsky introduced travelogue courses. Louise Sousk used local travel as an educational format. Eventually, both types of travel took on lives of their own and separate committees were formed. Terry Brittain, Doug Johnson, Arline Sachs, Pat Harrison, Debi Hunsberger and Bob Huley were the principal organizers of the study/travel type of class.



FOCUS POINTS

The most important early decision was to maximize the use of NOVA professors, and a committee member contacted the college's department heads and individual professors for presentations in history, art, literature, psychology and more. Key members in this role were Knox Singleton, Alan Mayer, Lorin Goodrich and Nan Peck.

Many areas of interest were specialties:

- Financial experts--Scott Pinckney, Mary Underwood, Delsa Hildebrandt, Doug Johnson and Barry Newman,
- Poetry--Richard Risk, Ed Sadtler and Marianne Moerman,
- Personal skills-- Genevieve Thiem, Louise Sousk, Nickie Myers, Beverly Portman and Salli Wise,
- American and English History-- Burt Greenstein,
- Genealogy–Arline Sachs,
- Science and technology-- Doris Balinsky, Barry Centini, Paul Hopler and Peter Schwarzkopf,
- National Park Service classes--Mary Underwood, Pat Daniels and Debi Hunsberger,
- Art and Music--Mary Underwood, Deanna DeMember, Lorin Goodrich, June Chalou, Ferne Beyer, Anna Dixon and Virginia Fernbach,
- Parks and Wildlife--Elaine Cherry, Doris Balinsky, Doug Johnson and Mary Lu Bednarsky,
- Discussion Groups--Helen Clark, Peter Schwarzkopf, Merry Macke and Chuck Hulick.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Others who had key roles in making the committee work, but who are not mentioned above, were Ellen Gale, Brent Beeson, Ed McKnight and Judy Robison.

Membership

By June Chalou and Bonnie Hopler

LLI/NOVA began with a charter of 38 members 25 years ago and now has 307 members. We had 393 members in 2006, 388 in 2017, and a peak of 402 in 2018.

Today, approximately 61 percent of our members have been part of the group for more than five years, having joined in April 2016 or earlier; 32 percent have been members for 10 years or more; and 14 percent have been members for more than 15 years. About 33 percent of the membership are married couples where both spouses are members.

Typically, August was the biggest month for membership renewals; however, that changed to November because everyone received three months free to compensate for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the worldwide pandemic in 2020-2021, membership dropped just 15 percent.

When LLI/NOVA started, the monthly Forums were scheduled specifically to invite people to attend so they might consider joining the organization. Forums have always been free and open to anyone. Even today, a Forum is often the first event a new or potential member attends.

Word-of-mouth invitations have been the best way to attract new members. Continuing our high-quality core programs of Forums, courses, Special Interest Groups, trips and study/travel is the key to attracting new members and retaining existing ones.

The annual membership dues began at \$100 per person and were raised to \$110 on October 1, 2006. In late 2006, the cost for non-members to attend trips was increased over the member cost to give impetus to join.

Marjorie Clark was the first membership chair and Louise Sousk handled membership services. Colletta Hammond took over the position from Louise, and then Louise Blakely was the chair for many years. June Chalou became chair in 2016.

The membership chair is available at all Forum gatherings to welcome prospective members and explain all that LLI/NOVA has to offer. June tries to make certain a newcomer has someone to sit with. She is also available to answer questions or provide assistance between meetings.

Newsletter

By Mary Jablonski



A monthly newsletter, suggested by Martie Klee, was one of the first LLI/NOVA administrative functions. She acted as Editor with layout and clipart added by graphics designer, Al Brothers, to produce the final product for printing. Volunteers gathered to prepare the mailing each month. In September 1997, Martie asked for membership input on a title for the newsletters, which became and still is "News & Views." The first formal printing on September 29, 1997 was Volume 1, Number 1. Early newsletters, in addition to monthly Forum, class, and event news, contained articles from individual members on trips they had taken and unaffiliated local club events.

George Staten became the acting editor in 1999 as Martie assumed responsibility for additional Outreach functions. Talented and willing volunteers continued through the following years with Al Brothers continuing to provide the graphics. Among the editors were Liz Snively starting in 2000, Liddell McLeod 2004, Norma Jean Reck 2007, Norma Hughes and Lynda Brittain in 2008, Beverly Portman in 2011 and Peg McCall in 2015. The finished newsletter is posted on the website.

Then big changes came in 2019. With the new, more interactive and highly effective website, a discussion began over whether the newsletter should continue or be gradually replaced by the website. The cost of producing and mailing paper copies could be diverted to improving the website and any newsletter could easily be emailed to members. With assistance from Janice Viola, the new editor, Mary Jablonski, began producing newsletters using Microsoft Publisher. With able assistance from Patricia Brennan, newsletters continued to be produced as pdf files. With frequent communication with website editors each medium gradually identified which articles fit each style and which should be available on both. The newsletter can provide an organization history with longer articles, while the website is preferable for administration of LLI/NOVA functions, such as class registration and payments. Of course, neither medium could survive without the writing of numerous, very talented and life-experienced members.



September 29, 1997 Volume 1 – Number 1



Welcome Members. New and Renewed

elcome to new LLI members — we are glad you are with us. Welcome back to "old" members, nice to see your smiling faces again! As we begin our 1997-98 year, we enjoy the most diverse schedule of classes offered since our founding. Classes began on September 10th and will continue until December 5th. Of the 23 classes offered to members some have been filled; however, there is still space available in various classes. In addition to our expanded curriculum, there are plans for interesting activities this year which will be announced as the year progresses. We look forward to sharing an enjoyable year together, learning and growing.

President's Corner

I hope all members share my excitement as we get underway with the second full year of operation. I am especially pleased with our faculty. Cur program committee has done a wonderful job in assembling an impressive array of highly qualified leaders, with special credit due to George Staten. I hope many others will join George in identifying persons with special talents that might be called upon to share their expertise with us. A challenging and diversified set of courses and activities is the SINE QUA NON of our growth and development, both as individuals and as an Institute.

The latest demographics from the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission show that we already have more than 400,000 adults over 50 years of age in our area, and the number is grawing steadily. So we have a tremendous challenge of working with our sponsor, the Northern Virginia Community College network, in bringing lifetime learning to many more residents. The potential is almost unlimited. We must reach out to more locations where more older adults live and where meeting space and parking are available.

Finally, 9 must draw attention again to the fact that we are a membership organization and have no paid staff. Aside from paying modest dues and attending courses and activities, each member has a responsibility to help in some way in carrying on the necessary work of the 9nstitute. We have now a small core of dedicated volunteers who are spending many long hours and doing a great job. Witness Martie Klee putting the first issue of this newsletter together and seeing to its distribution. They need help. If you can spare even one or two hours a month, call the office and leave the message that you would like to help in some way, either with some committee or in some task in the office. I feel sure that a place can be found for you, and it would be most appreciated.

Lecture Series — October Speaker

The speaker for our October 6th lecture will be Dr. Ihssan Wali, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States. Dr. Wali, a widely recognized educator and scholar, has served as a Lecturer of English on the faculty of Mass Communications at Cairo University and the Sadat Academy. For the last 16 years, Dr. Wali was Director of Education in the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO. As Cultural Attaché, Dr. Wali, an art and museum expert, has been responsible for establishing cultural contacts between Egyptian and American museums and arranging art exhibitions and cultural events to introduce recent trends in Egyptian art to American society.

Remember, the lectures are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Forum on the mezzanine of the Ernst Culture Center on the NVCC Annandale campus. There will be no parking fee.

Monthly Luncheon Group

Following the lecture by Dr. Wali, the monthly luncheon group will meet at the Arabian House Café, 6138-B Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. This new restaurant is located in the

Front page, September 29, 1997, Vol. 1, No. 1

Scholarship Program

By Bonnie Hopler and Richard Martin

Awarding scholarships to outstanding NVCC students has been one of LLI/NOVA's longest-running services. In October 1999 the Board voted to establish an award of up to \$1500 for students on the Annandale campus, to be funded by individual contributions from members and friends The purpose was to recognize students who have demonstrated outstanding skills and leadership in fostering multicultural relationships and understanding among a diverse student body.

The first Student Leadership Award of \$1000 was presented at a Board meeting in May 2000. A check and plaque were presented to Makan Shirafkin, who was introduced to the membership at the June Forum. In 2001 a \$1500 award was given to Yasmeen Mahmood and interestingly both recipients went on to become president of the student government in addition to being outstanding students.

Alan Mayer was the initial chairman of our Student Award Committee. In June 2004 he and fellow committee members Doris Balinsky, Dr. Barbara Saperstein, Knox Singleton and Mary Underwood presented three awards totaling \$2000. By June 2006 six awards with a total value of \$7500 were given.

By May 2007 Doris Balinsky was committee chair and members were Leah Porzel, Marianne Moerman and Deanna DeMember; five awards were presented totaling \$8000. In 2008 the student leadership scholarship was renamed the Lifetime Learning Institute Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship to honor founder and first president, Knox Singleton. The initial award of \$2000 was presented to Lisa Borges so she could complete her training at NVCC in Marketing, Promotions and Public Relations and go on to get a BA in Television, Radio and Film.



The scholarship committee noted "how impressed they were with the applicants' academic achievements, clear-cut goals, leadership skills and gratitude and appreciation to LLI for giving them the opportunities for furthering their studies." Those observations are just as true today.

By 2011 our awards were much better known around the campus and 36 students applied for scholarships, compared to 6 in 1999. Also that year the contributions from members reached double digits as \$10,000 was awarded to deserving students. The scholarship committee invited members to attend the June 2013 Forum to meet the award recipients because "each one has a clear direction of what he or she wants to achieve in life and each has made great sacrifices to attain those goals."

By 2016 the committee was chaired by Arline Sachs, who served in that position for a number of years. Six academic scholarships and four leadership scholarships were awarded in 2017 totaling \$15,000.



At the September 2019 Forum, Lorin Goodrich was recognized for his outstanding service during more than 20 years of membership. The name of the annual academic scholarship we award was changed to the Lorin Goodrich Scholarship.

For a number of years, the program was managed by a Scholarship Committee of LLI volunteers, usually assisted by a NVCC staff volunteer. The Committee raised funds from the membership, announced the availability of the scholarships to students, provided application forms, reviewed applications, interviewed applicants, and selected recipients and amounts of awards.

Over time the number and qualifications of applicants rose and fell and we found we sometimes did not have enough outstanding recipients for the scholarship money we had available. Many community college students live at home and support their studies and their families with part-time or full-time jobs. Through our decades-long relationship with the college we know that NVCC students are hard-working, highly motivated, unselfish, energetic and diverse. Many are gifted with very strong academic and leadership skills. The Scholarship Committee saw the need for a larger pool of applicants in order to provide assistance to the neediest, most deserving members of the student body.



Other companies and organizations which provide scholarships to NVCC use a centralized process through which students can complete one application that is applicable to many different awarding entities. In 2019 the NVCC Provost's Office suggested that LLI/NOVA link its scholarship program to the NVCC Educational Foundation, a non-profit partner of Virginia's community colleges that has been supporting NVCC students for 40 years. Located on NVCC Annandale's campus, the Foundation has an endowment of about \$6.5 million. No fees are charged for this service. Donors determine the qualifications of scholarship recipients, the amount and number of scholarships, and the particular benefits and objectives they desire for prospective recipients. In the 2019 trial year, our LLI scholarships publicized and managed by the NVCC Educational Foundation received a far greater number of exceptional applicants than we had in the past. We had no trouble making awards totaling the \$12,000 we had available that year.

LLI/NOVA received 15 percent more in donations from members in 2020 than we did in 2019. Members responded generously to the urgent needs of NVCC students in that unusually difficult pandemic year. In 2020, LLI/NOVA set an ambitious target of \$25,000 for its scholarship program. The target commemorates that year's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of LLI/NOVA's founding. This goal was met and our President, Anna Dixon, presented a \$25,000 check from LLI/NOVA to NOVA President Anne Kress in November 2020.



As a result of this success, the LLI/NOVA Board of Directors decided to permanently implement the Scholarship Program in partnership with the NVCC Educational Foundation. The Foundation publicizes the scholarships, runs faculty selection committees to pick the recipients, and manages the grants to recipients. LLI/NOVA raises funds from its membership, determines the structure and amounts of the scholarships, and promotes communication with scholarship recipients. Through the years, we have heard from scholarship recipients letting us know how the funds were used. The following representative letter was received in April 2021:

"In April of 2017, I was awarded the LLI Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship. During my interview I stated to members of LLI 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.

"Throughout this process, I've had a community of mentors, teachers, and friends that guided me along the way. I am offering similar support to a NVCC Annandale student.. If there is a formal process to submit a reference letter, I would love to submit one on her behalf because I believe she is on a crash course to making a difference in this world.

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

Here are acknowledgements received from the 2020 recipients:

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity in funding this LLI Academic Scholarship. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to be the selected recipient for this scholarship. With the ongoing crisis regarding the virus, this scholarship would help me with my college expense and lessen my financial problem. I promise that I will use it wisely and continue to bring positive change to others and be kind to one another even if I do not have much. Once again, I am very thankful and appreciate your support in education."

"It is with great honor when I write this, Thank you very much for giving me this scholarship. It will help and inspire me to do more in my next steps. I also want to let you know that your money will do something great. It means a lot to me."

"Thank you for the opportunity to further my education and be one step closer in achieving my goals without a financial burden. This scholarship makes me happy to know that my academic efforts and hard work has been acknowledged by the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation and the Student Aid Office. I am grateful for this award and I will work even harder for the NOVA community." "Thank you for your generous LLI Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship. I am immensely honored and grateful to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. Currently, I am pursuing an associate degree in Hospitality Management and I plan to add Culinary Arts as my second area of study. Growing up, my parents taught me about the importance of a college education. They also have encouraged me to volunteer and help others, no matter the circumstance. Recently, the coronavirus pandemic has brought uncertainty and upheaval to our lives. In the first weeks, while in guarantine, I collected and delivered food and cleaning supplies to families in need and to immunocompromised individuals who could not leave their homes. That being said, I enjoy helping, even when the part I play feels small. In the future, I plan to have my own business and, thus, be able to give back to the local community that has embraced me since my arrival in the United States. Thank you so much for your generosity. By awarding me the LLI Knox Singleton Leadership Scholarship, you are allowing me to turn my goals and dreams into reality. Finally, it will also motivate me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree."

"Thank you so very much for the scholarship award.. I remain committed to perform as an outstanding student. I am pursuing a career in Computer Science and this indeed is a boosting factor for me to perform even better. As I am a first generation college student I hope I will become a role model student for kids to get inspired to perform like me."

"I sincerely thank the donor for offering me this extremely valuable scholarship. It's my first year at NOVA and I was trying my absolute best throughout the fall and spring semesters. My mom greatly invested in my learning during my high school years, and now is the time to thank her and make her happy with the scholarship that you generously awarded me. Thank you so much for helping me achieve my greatest goal, getting my college degree, and making my mother proud. I am immensely grateful!"

"I want to send the utmost gratitude to the scholarship foundation. The award truly means the world to me, knowing that it will help to get me one step closer to my goal. This is the first scholarship I have ever applied, and it is too the first time I have ever shared my dream with anyone. Thank you for taking the time to read my humble thoughts. This gift has been the most generous." "I am writing to thank you for your generous LLI Academic Scholarship. I am very happy and thankful to learn that I was selected as the recipient of this scholarship. You have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more in school. This money means opportunity to study further."

"Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. This will go a long way towards helping me on my part to becoming a doctor by freeing up some much needed time for studying and extracurriculars. With the competitive nature of medical school admissions, any opportunity to improve my resume is appreciated, and the financial assistance offered through this scholarship grants me more freedom in doing so."



The recipients of the 2018 scholarships and the scholarship committee are shown at the May Forum. First row (I to r) are committee members unknown, Loren Brandman, Patti Volz, Merry Macke, (NVCC representative), Arline Sachs, chair, Stanley Lichtman, Richard Martin and unknown

Study/Travel Program

By Bob Huley

LLI/NOVA's target membership audience is active retirees. In the Northern Virginia area, most recent retirees, whether solo or couples, have an interest in travel that goes well beyond local day trips. During their working days, most members did not have the time or funds to pursue travel other than occasional vacations, but most dreamed of seeing the world and may have even created a travel bucket list.

Therefore, it is not surprising that when LLI/NOVA was founded in 1996 as an educational organization for seniors, in addition to classes, one of the first activities was the creation of the Study/Travel program. Study/Travel was the brainchild of Alan Mayer, an original member and LLI/NOVA's first vice president and subsequently president.

Alan envisioned offering group international travel that included not only a great experience, but also an educational phase -- thus the "study" portion of the name. This educational phase, prior to traveling, would include topics such as history, art, culture, and more about the area to be visited, along with presentations by local experts and often visits to embassies.

Alan's approach to Study/Travel was to build it into the curriculum with a multi-session class in each semester catalog. In Phase 1, participants selected the trip. In Phase 2, they studied the area to be visited. Phase 3 was the trip itself. This often was followed by a travelogue presentation of the trip to other members in subsequent semesters.

The first trip, a combination of a visit to Istanbul, a Greek Island cruise, and time in Athens, was conducted barely a year after LLI/NOVA's founding with eight adventurous participants. Not only was the "study" portion a unique aspect of this program, but also the concept of the participants' choosing where to go was a way to involve the members. Fortunately, Alan had a good friend who ran a local travel agency, so LLI/NOVA had the benefit of a travel professional to assist in the planning and execution of the trips.

The initial trip was followed by one or two major trips annually thereafter. Alan continued to manage the program as membership grew and the popularity of the Study/Travel trips expanded. The trips that were offered were usually commercial tours, using a variety of vendors, but frequently were customized by our travel agent to add special pre- or post-trip options. You can view a listing of all the Study/Travel trips on the Study/Travel page of LLI/NOVA's website. By 2004, the organization had grown significantly, with membership of more than 300, and among those who joined that year were Doug Johnson, Terry Brittain and Bob Huley. All three, and their wives, had a great interest in international travel and began working with Alan on trip planning. The first trip they helped organize was the 2005 Tulip Time Tour, a river cruise in the Low Countries combined with a special World War II-themed visit to Bastogne just for LLI/NOVA. There was so much interest in travel that year that offerings included two more trips, one to China, led by Sid and Arline Sachs, and another to the Canadian Rockies by rail, led by Virginia Fernbach. These trips were followed in 2006 by another river cruise, Prague to Paris, again organized by Doug, Terry and Bob. In addition, there was a Panama Canal cruise offered that year.

At this point, after 10 successful years of building LLI/NOVA's travel program, Alan stepped down from his leadership role in Study/Travel, and Doug Johnson, Terry Brittain and Bob Huley took over. The new leaders retained the study phase of Study/Travel but worked on refining the trip selection process. The number of members interested in Study/Travel had become so large – the email list was more than 100 -- that conducting the trip selection process in a classroom setting was no longer practical. Instead, the new team held brief sessions to assess member interest in destinations, and then a small Study/Travel committee did the research on available trips. Final trip selection was still made by the members, but the process involved a review of the committee's analysis and recommendations and then votes by email.

With the large number of members interested in travel, the team also pursued a strategy of accommodating solo travelers and offering multiple trips annually. The first trip planned in this manner was an extraordinarily successful tour of Ireland for 25 members. In addition, LLI/NOVA sponsored a trip to South America that year, led by Norma Hughes and Bob Huley, which included a visit to Machu Pichu.

In the years that followed, the travel triumvirate guided Study/Travel with Doug taking overall leadership with a focus on the Study phase, Bob doing the trip research, and Terry being the trip leader. By 2011, Doug was heavily involved in leadership of the Curriculum Committee, and scaled back his participation in Study/Travel. Terry stepped up to be the Study/Travel lead and Bob continued to focus on trip research.

Study/Travel trips had become so popular that they were expanded to friends and family, and as a result the organization often was able to book an entire tour exclusively for LLI/NOVA participants, sometimes with significant discounts. In addition to the usual focus on European tours, Study/Travel began to include North American-based tours, such as U.S. National Parks, into the selection options. Significant trips during this period included Spain, the Danube River, Sicily, and Alpine Europe/Switzerland, in addition to two tours to major National Parks.

After 10 years of involvement in Study/Travel, Terry Brittain scaled back his activities in 2016, and Bob Huley continued managing the program with the help of a small committee of dedicated travel researchers. Because interest in travel remained remarkably high, Bob organized both a primary trip and a secondary trip for several years. Thus, in addition to the Alpine tour in 2016, Sid and Arline Sachs led a trip to Iceland.

In 2017, Study/Travel sponsored a river cruise in France and a tour of the Scottish Highlands, followed by tours of the Balkans (Dubrovnik to Venice) and the Canadian Maritimes in 2018. For 2019, we scaled back to one long trip, visiting several National Parks (Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and Mount Rushmore).

For 2020, Study/Travel planned a cruise on the Rhine and Mosel rivers, and 29 participants were booked. Then the pandemic hit. That trip was eventually postponed by the vendor and rebooked for 2021, then rebooked again. As a result, most LLI/NOVA participants canceled their reservations, and no trip was conducted in 2020. Bob also stepped down from leadership of Study/Travel in 2020 after 15 years of involvement with the program and, due to the pandemic, the trips to Ireland and Australia/New Zealand, planned for 2021, also were canceled.

Post-pandemic, LLI/NOVA looks forward to new Study/Travel leadership resurrecting Study/Travel and rebuilding the program for 2022 and for the next 25 years.





Travel within the United States

By Carol Fagnani and Linda LeDuc

The Trips Program offers an opportunity to engage with one another while learning about places of interest in a small-group setting. The common element is a member's desire to keep learning. To that end, our trips typically include a guided tour that offers a wealth of facts and tidbits. As we tour together, our trips enable us to share in camaraderie and to get to know one another.

The 2021 Trips Program committee members are Patricia Harrison, Debi Hunsberger, Patti McKnight and Carol Fagnani.

The program was established many years ago by Louise Sousk to engage LLI/NOVA members in a variety of educational, cultural, and social activities and to give them an opportunity to interact with other members.

Our first Day Trip was in July 1998 to Arlington, Virginia, and included a visit to the Newseum, lunch at the Orleans House restaurant, and a guided tour of the Pentagon. The first Overnight Trip was in May 1999 to Cape May, New Jersey.

After Louise Sousk resigned as lead chair, Ginny Moser and Martie Klee became cochairs of the domestic trip committee. During the last 10 years, many members have participated in planning trips, including Anne Austin, Ferne Beyer, Louise Blakely, Patricia Harrison, Linda LeDuc, Kathryn O'Toole, Lynne Smaldone and Mary Underwood. Patricia Harrison was chair for several years.

Trips are selected based on feedback from members, on class evaluation forms with suggestions and recommendations, and sometimes by surveys. The committee members research, plan and organize trips that are interesting, fun and educational, working together so that no one feels overwhelmed. Each trip planned is a team effort. We encourage others who have places they would like to visit to join us and pursue those ideas as a member of the committee.

Our offerings include visits to local sites that may occupy all or part of the day. We may arrange for commercial bus transportation, or we may have an informal meetup, whereby each participant provides his/her own transportation to a designated place. Participants may decide to drive separately, use public transportation, or organize a carpool.

For more extensive offerings, trips have been organized entirely by committee members, contracting for transportation, meals, and site tours; through commercial tour operators who book all expenses specifically for our organization; or through joining with another organization to fill a professionally organized trip.

Through June 2021, trips remain suspended until further notice, pending health advisories concerning COVID-19. During the pandemic, we cancelled trips to the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the Heurich House Museum in Dupont Circle, and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Our trips to St. Michaels, Maryland, and to Amish country were postponed.

In 2022, we plan to travel by bus to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to tour the Mennonite Center and join our local guide to begin our narrated tour. The guide will talk to us about the Old Amish and Mennonite customs while we see farmers working their crops and children going to school. We then stop at an Amish bakery for some local pastries.

On the same trip, we plan to head to the Strasburg Railroad to board a beautifully restored train car, which is pulled by an historic steam engine, for a nine-mile roundtrip journey to Paradise, Pennsylvania. Our lunch may be at an Amish farmhouse where the Stolzfus family will share stories and answer questions about their life.



Past local trips have included the Congressional Cemetery Tour, an Occoquan River cruise, visits to the Pentagon and the 9/11 Memorial, the National Arboretum, Lincoln's summer home and the Washington Nationals' baseball games, to name a few.

Informal meetups in past years included visits to the Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art, National Museum of African-American History and Culture and the U.S. Supreme Court.

We also have made visits to West Virginia with a train ride; Staunton, Virginia, for a live Shakespearian play; Frank Lloyd Wright's houses at Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, Pennsylvania; Newport, Rhode Island; Princeton University and Grounds for Sculpture tour in New Jersey; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond; tours of Philadelphia and Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and the Suicide Bridge/Harriet TubmanTour in Maryland.





A group of smiling women clearly enjoying this trip, which we think was in New York City



Ginny Moser at the day trip to the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in the Fall of 2006



The Website Story

By Bob Huley

What a Long Strange Trip It's Been

The LLI/NOVA website project began at the March 2013 Board meeting, when Ray Bednarsky, who has a strong technical project management background, expressed his concerns with the existing website and the organization's limited use of technology. The Board concurred, and President Ed McKnight asked Ray to form a committee to explore what was possible in improving our use of technology.

The newly formed Automation Committee met in May. Initial members, in addition to Ray, were Gina Trapp, Bob Huley, Anna Dixon, Buck Myers and Paul Hopler, each representing expertise in various LLI/NOVA functions. Ray envisioned using a business process re-engineering approach to create an interactive website that used automation, security and hosting technology. The committee was to define the requirements for a new site and to solicit bids for development, maintenance and hosting.

Approximately a year later, under Ray's leadership, the committee had expanded to 10 members and had documented a robust set of requirements. A fixed-price contract was awarded to a local website development firm with the expectation that the work would be completed in a year. The firm began implementing the new website, but a year later it was apparent that progress was falling well behind schedule.

Ray's tenure on the Board and his position as Chair of the Automation Committee ended in June 2015, and Buck Myers and Kathryn O'Toole took over as co-chairs, expecting to manage the project through implementation. Because the specifications were complete, the only other member of the committee was Bob Huley.

By August 2015, however, it was becoming clear that our contractor was having serious business difficulties and had essentially stopped work on our contract. LLI/NOVA President George Chalou sent the firm a formal letter requesting the status of our contract and received no response. As a result, in December, George notified the firm that LLI/NOVA would be going to Fairfax County's Small Claims court for return of our contract funds for non-performance on the contract.

Meanwhile, the Board and the Automation Committee were unwilling to give up on the vision of a new website. It was suggested that LLI/NOVA representatives meet with the college's technical staff to obtain guidance. In December, Lorin Goodrich and the committee met with a college webmaster, who agreed to review our documentation.

At the February 2016 Board meeting, President Chalou announced the successful reimbursement of our contract funds from the firm just prior to going to small claims court. At the same meeting, Buck Myers indicated the college webmaster was impressed with our requirements and indicated an interest in putting together an informal development team to bid on the project. A contract was signed in April.

In July, Scott Pinckney took over as LLI/NOVA President, becoming the third to become involved in the website development. Initially, the development team and the Automation Committee believed that the site could be developed quickly by using modern website development tools such as WordPress. In reality, however, the organization's requirements were far more complex and the size of the site was far larger than initially envisioned. Nevertheless, progress was being made, and in January 2017 the committee was able to report that much of the site had been built. Most pages had been created, much of the content had been added, and the members-only section had been completed.

Six months later, progress was still being made on the site development, albeit more slowly than planned in the contract. There was also a challenge in finding a suitable software package to do class registration, a key function. However, when Board members tested the system in October, they had only minor suggestions.

At this point, the committee began to develop a phased implementation plan that would take the system live by the fall of 2018. It was critical to synchronize the implementation with the Curriculum Committee's schedule for class registration because the intent was to do this function online. Several planning meetings were held to ensure the website would meet all needs.

In the spring of 2018, the development team was running into several technical problems, which was slowing progress, but by June most had been overcome and most of the "fixes" requested by LLI/NOVA members had been implemented. Therefore, the plan was to begin moving the website from its developmental area (i.e., a staging site) to the live site area so members could begin accessing the information. The concept of having a staging or test site and a live site had been fundamental to our development.

In July 2018, Anna Dixon, who had been one of the original Automation Committee members, took over as President, the fourth to be involved with our website implementation.

Unfortunately, in early summer, the development team continued to experience major technical issues with moving LLI/NOVA's website from the staging site to the live site and then keeping these environments in synch. This technical problem put the website rollout plan in jeopardy, and the plan to go live was moved from June to September. Although the website was essentially complete, technical problems continued through early fall due to incompatibility between our staging/development site and our backup software. That problem was finally resolved in October 2018, and the phased rollout of the site was planned for January 1, 2019.

Nineteen years into the 21st Century, LLI/NOVA finally rolled out its new website, reflecting a radical change in the use of technology. Electronic communication, i.e., email, became the standard. Newsletters and catalogs, formerly printed and mailed, now could be read on the site. Members could make class reservations online and were able to renew their memberships, donate to the scholarship fund, and make holiday luncheon reservations online and pay by credit card.

We are where we are thanks to the foresight and hard work of many members. It started with Lorin Goodrich and Memphis Norman, who got us going, followed by the work of Sidney Sachs who singlehandedly kept us running for 16 years, including six while the new site was being developed. It also took the leadership of Ray Bednarsky and the efforts of the original Automation Committee to define the vision of what we wanted to be able to do with technology. Four presidents (Ed McKnight, Scott Pinckney, George Chalou and Anna Dixon) continued to have faith in and support the effort over the almost six-year development period. And finally, to make it all happen required the technical skill of our development team (Kama Storie and Angela Manning) and the drive and perseverance of the Automation Committee, led by Buck Myers and Kathryn O'Toole.

Now, more than two years after the initial implementation, we have survived the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot imagine LLI/NOVA functioning without its website and technology. Our technology gave us the ability to adapt from all in-person activities to all virtual activity using Zoom. The website provides the most up-to-date information on everything LLI/NOVA, including a historical archive of the organization's past with easy access to newsletters and catalogs and other information from our founding.

Welcome to the 21st Century as we begin to explore other new technology, including social media.



Sidney Sachs working on the website



CHAPTER 3 Arts & Crafts Exhibit

CREATING: SHARING YOUR INNER SELF

By Arlene Gribben

In 2014, Arlene Gribben organized an LLI/NOVA Arts and Crafts Exhibit. It was so successful, it became an annual event through 2019.



As with other aspects of LLI/NOVA, many members are very creative and stepped forward to put their talents on display. The events were usually held in conjunction with the April Forums, using classroom spaces next to the Forum room at NOVA, Annandale Campus.

On average, 22 members participated, and many Forum attendees browsed through the exhibit and chatted with the artisans. This provided a venue for people to see other interests of their fellow members. The variety of highquality creativity was impressive and included knitting, sculpture, painting, jewelry, drawing, woodwork, photography, basketry and more.



Over the years, Arlene received many positive comments from both participants and viewers on how much they enjoyed the event. Ray Bednarsky's feedback stated it clearly: "It was a pleasure to both attend and exhibit at the 2019 Arts & Craft Exhibition."

Events

By Bonnie Hopler

Fun. Fellowship. Friendship. Food.

PICNICS

Not long after LLI/NOVA began, Louise Sousk began planning an annual picnic. For the first few years, it was pot-luck and the meal was whatever the attendees were willing to bring. As time went by, the Board was persuaded to include funds in the budget and the picnic became fancier. Each year, a planning committee chose a theme and arranged for a buffet luncheon, decorations, entertainment, favors, and fun prizes. It was held at various parks but was at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria for a number of years, until the picnics were discontinued in 2013.



Picnic Committee, June 2, 2011, Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria (first row l to r) Marianne Moerman, Nancy Jerdan, Salli Wise, Bonnie Hopler (second row, left to right) Arline Sachs, Warren Hynes, Sally Reynolds, Doug Johnson, Merry Macke, Rita McClanahan, Trudy Hynes, Shirley Lytle

APPRECIATION EVENTS

We have always appreciated our teachers/instructors. For several years, we hosted an Appreciation Luncheon, which was originally held at the Little River United Church of Christ with Bo Kelley, Elaine Waggoner and Marie Baglio as early planners. Later the luncheon was held at the college, and everyone who taught in the preceding year was invited, along with members who chose to attend. Each year a planning committee chose a theme and arranged for the luncheon, with decorations and a program. One popular theme was "Hats Off to Our Volunteers." The event was discontinued because the teachers were so busy they could seldom attend.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

An annual Holiday Party was planned from the organization's earliest days. Among the early planners were Martie Klee, Louise Sousk and Marie Baglio. The popularity of the party grew through the years and is a holiday tradition with many members. Previously held at the Fort Myer Officers' Club or the Knights of Columbus Hall in Arlington, the party was held in 2008 at the Country Club of Fairfax, which was so popular that we continue there today. The planning committee chooses a theme, then arranges the details, including entertainment and door prizes. For a number of years, attendees have generously donated toys for the children at a local shelter, a tradition that was begun by Merry Huley.





World" in 2013



THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

The planning team for the 10th anniversary celebration, in 2006, was chaired by Don Reynolds. Three special celebrations were held: a birthday party, "LLI Stirs Things Up," in May at Greenspring Village, chaired by Martie Klee and Bonnie Hopler; a "Fall Country Western Picnic" in September at Fort Hunt Park, chaired by Dick DiBuono and Chuck Klee; and the Holiday Party in December at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Arlington, chaired by Betty Mahon. The holiday party was to be the kickoff event for the 10th anniversary in December 2005 but was cancelled because of snow Tenth Anniversary Celebration May 2006



These BurmaShave-style signs greeted attendees



Tenth Anniversary Celebration May 2006



Penny Gross, Mason Districk Supervisor and an early supporter, brought greetings from Fairfax County. Picture behind her is Martie Klee, who was the Mistress of Ceremonies



The table centerpiece for Study/Travel



for the Forums



The Forums Turn 25

By Joseph Pincus

From the beginning of LLI/NOVA, monthly meetings were held in the Ernst Center, Forum room at NVCC. They were originally referred to as "open house programs" since prospective members were sent personal invitations to become acquainted with the organization, and information on activities was available.

One of the early series featured monthly lectures on other countries with speakers from various embassies or those with extensive experience living in the subject country. Key leaders in this program were J. Knox Singleton, Alan Mayer, Jean Packard, Ted Krivoruchka, Robert Beyer, Lorin Goodrich, Moe Moser and Joseph Pincus.

A close-call near air disaster happened in April 2011 a few days before the Forum. "Oh no," said Moe Moser, "our prominent speaker will probably have to cancel." But no, the agency head of The National Transportation Safety Board did not cancel her appointment with LLI/NOVA. The Honorable Deborah Hersman – a pilot by training -came and gave a spellbinding lecture about how air, train and ship disasters are investigated. She herself had been the lead investigator on the scene at more than 22 major accidents. After the question- and- answer period she rushed off to a national press conference. This was so typical of our forums. Expert speakers loved to come and they shared the most in-depth analysis and the latest, breaking news.

The Forum tackled many important issues facing society. Professor Karen Bune talked about domestic violence: understanding the issues and working for solutions among police, prosecutors, victim assistance personnel and the judiciary. We heard from a Navy Rear Admiral who directed the efforts against sexual harassment. Barbara Ferguson, Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief of Arab Nation, spoke about understanding the Moslem Religion and Culture and Overcoming Stereotypes Leading to Islamphobia. We heard from a panel who had participated in the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy. We learned about the organization Opportunities, Alternatives, & Resources (OAR) which works to help educate and rehabilitate inmates of Fairfax County jails and prepare offenders for reentry into society. How are seeing eye dogs trained? A leader from Guiding Eyes for the Blind explained the extensive training programs. She brought with her Pat Leahy, a blind policy analyst on Capitol Hill, who introduced Gallahad and explained how he works with his dog.

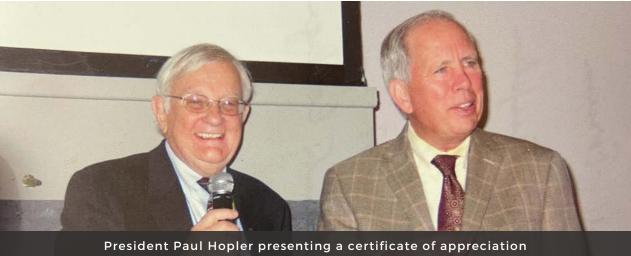
Speakers at provocative Forum sessions predicted many important technologies that would change the world. We heard a National Institutes of Health (NIH) researcher from the Human Genome Project predict how in the near future doctors would be able to order full genetic scans and prescribe medicines specifically tailored to a person's genes.



Dr. Henry Brandhorst, President of Carbon Free Energy, spoke about the latest improvements in solar energy and the trends and potential for wind power. We had a stimulating program about the technology and legal issues of driverless cars. As in so many of these predictions, the future has already arrived, but we heard it first in the Forum.

We had educational forums about many health issues. Kathy Gold, a certified Diabetes Educator, held up a model of thickened blood and discussed what we can do about a serious disease which is becoming a national epidemic. We had a lecture on support for cancer patients and their families and we heard from a NIH doctor heading the Parkinson research center.

On January 6, 2015, a late-breaking ice storm caught Fairfax County Schools by surprise. School buses became stranded and our Forum speaker braved a harrowing journey from Manassas, Virginia. So on this awful morning Dr. Jim Zimbelman, a planetary geologist with the National Air and Space Museum, arrived to an audience of less than ten. But undeterred, Dr. Zimbelman gave a powerhouse lecture, a Spacecraft Tour of the Universe. Jim graciously came back in June for a repeat presentation, except this time his visuals had to be updated because several planetary discoveries had taken place in the interval, among them, Pluto had been downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet. Once again, our expert LLI/NOVA speakers brought us the latest scientific research and breaking news.



President Paul Hopler presenting a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Robert Templin, President of Northern Virginia Community College, at the Forum in June 2011

One of the perks as Forum Chair is that I got to schedule myself. I gave a lecture on the true authorship of William Shakespeare and staged a lively mock debate between the tanner's son from Stratford Village versus the 17th Earl of Oxford. I reenacted roles and gave out prizes. An LLI/NOVA member came up afterwards and said, "To tell you the truth Shakespeare is not my cup of tea. I can't believe that I actually attended a lecture on Shakespeare. But to my utmost surprise I loved it!" This is the spirit of the Forum. It offered something new, diverse and intellectually stimulating for everyone. And the authorship debate continued. For weeks after folks sent rebuttal pieces. "Good lecture, Pincus, however, read this!"

There were compelling history presentations which had the "you are there" feeling. LLI/NOVA's own Herman Viola, Ph.D., Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, recreated the untold story of Custer's last stand at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Dr. Viola shared his own extensive research based on Indian oral history, diaries, archaeological evidence and government records. Author Kirstin Downey spoke about Queen Isabella, The Warrior Queen and at another Forum Kirstin discussed her biography of Frances Perkins, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor, who was the force behind many new deal programs. And for adventure, Rear Admiral Terry McKnight talked about fighting pirates off the coast of Somalia.



George Chalou and Dr. Herman J. Viola, Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, at the January 2011 Fiorum



The Forum featured many cultural topics. Michael Canning, author of Hollywood on the Potomac, led us through a history of film clips about the Nation's Capital. A program about the Holocaust in Poland featured a local filmmaker, William Gilcher, who spoke about how culture and the arts can be means of resisting oppression. And the Forum heard from William Lecky, the architect of the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

Why did so many wonderful people volunteer their time, knowledge, and speaking abilities? What attracted our speakers to the forums was the large, enthusiastic well-read people of LLI/NOVA. The Q and A periods were fascinating and very timely and challenging to our speakers. The sharing of ideas in a stimulating, friendly environment enriches all of us and brings us new friendships and memorable experiences.

Friendship Connection

By Gina Trapp

Sunshine Coordinator

One of the benefits of membership in LLI/NOVA is making new friends. As such, we like to show concern for fellow members who may be ill or have suffered a loss.

In September 1997, Barbara Evans initiated the role of Sunshine Coordinator in an effort to reach out to any member who might be experiencing a problem and to let that person know that others were thinking about him or her.

Arlene Gribben continued this tradition and became the coordinator in October 2004. By way of an article in the newsletter, she emphasized the importance of staying connected to our fellow members. In 2007, Pat Harrison took over the role and served for 13 years. Pat turned over the position in September 2020 to Gina Trapp.

In Memoriam

During his tenure as LLI/NOVA President from July 2014 to June 2016, George Chalou initiated what has come to be known as "In Memoriam" notices for the newsletter. George felt that not everyone was being informed about the deaths of our members, and that many would receive the news only through word of mouth.

He asked Gina Trapp to write an "In Memoriam" column for the newsletter, not only to keep everyone informed, but also so that members could express their own condolences to the family. This practice continues today.



The Hospitality Committee

By Philippa Centini

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 to handle any issues with the coffee service during the forums and work with the vendor on an annual financial agreement for the expense.

At each forum, the coordinators bring supplies from the LLI/NOVA office to the meeting space, set up an attractive and appealing table with refreshments, and clear 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 monthly forum 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.

Information Fair

By Patti Volz

LLI/NOVA sponsors an annual, when able, Information Fair showcasing our SIGs and Standing Committees. The fair is held before the Forum. This is your chance to chat with representatives from LLI/NOVA Committees and SIGs to decide if you want to get more involved.

As you know, LLI/NOVA operates on a completely volunteer basis, so we rely on our members to be proactive and help out. We also rely on volunteers for new ideas or new ways of doing things. Volunteering does not take up much time, but it is the cog in the wheel that enables LLI/NOVA to operate smoothly.

In addition, by joining a Committee or SIG, you ensure that your particular interests are met and heard. SIGs typically meet once or twice a month and are comprised of people with similar interest in a specific activity. Currently we have nine SIGs: Bridge, Favorite Books Club, Financial, French Conversation, Foodies & Friends, Photography, Mystery Books, Tabletop Games, and Visual & Performing Arts. Members who are eager to start a new SIG can use the Information Fair to gauge and solicit interest from fellow members.

There are also many Standing Committees represented at the fair, all of which rely on volunteers. They include Administrative Review, Automation, Financial Review, Budget & Finance, Curriculum, Student Scholarship, Study Travel and Trips.

The Study/Travel Committee provides members (and their friends and families) with the opportunity not only to participate in group travel worldwide, but also to learn about the area they are going to visit prior to the travel. Study sessions are included in the LLI/NOVA course offerings in the semester just prior to the travel.

The mission of the Trip Committee is to promote and provide access to the educational, cultural and leisure offerings in this area and in nearby states to members (and their friends and families).

The Visual and Performing Arts SIG works closely with the Trips Committee to enable members to experience arts in a way that would not be possible within the confines of a classroom. Typical activities/events include a mix of meetings with films, speakers, and member research, as well as day/multi-day field trips that take advantage of the many museums, theaters, universities, galleries and artist studios in our area.



The Automation Committee was chartered by the President and Board of Directors to address the Interactive Website Upgrade Project. They are always looking for members knowledgeable and interested in information technology. The project consists of replacing our former website with a new interactive website designed to meet LLI/NOVA's future needs and provide our members with a quality user experience.

The Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee was established in the LLI/NOVA Bylaws and is composed of a Chairperson, appointed by the President from among the members of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, and at least two members appointed by the Chairperson. The B&F Committee prepares the annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors. The committee also reviews financial performance against the budget and reports its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors, and attends to other fiscal matters as required.

The Financial Review Committee, an Ad Hoc Committee whose Chairperson is appointed annually by the LLI/NOVA President, performs the annual review (audit) of the LLI/NOVA financial condition as of the close of the previous fiscal year (June 30), as required by Article VIII, section 1, of the LLI/NOVA By-laws. The Chairperson customarily appoints two other members to serve on the committee.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for developing a slate of nominees for LLI/NOVA Board and Officer positions. The LLI/NOVA President appoints the Chairperson, who forms the Nominating Committee; the Committee consists of two additional Board members and two non-Board members.

The Curriculum Committee's task is to produce the course catalog. It secures a variety of presenters featuring a wide field of subjects, including history, technology, science, religion, philosophy, music, art, poetry, finance and others that will be of interest to our members. Between 12 and 15 members produce course catalogs for three separate semesters: Winter/Spring, Summer and Fall.

The Scholarship Committee awards financial assistance to outstanding students at the NOVA Annandale campus. The two types of scholarships, Leadership and Academic, are intended to be used by the recipients to pay for tuition and books as they continue their studies.

In other sections of this book, these committees and SIGs are described in more detail. The important thing to remember is that LLINOVA is a volunteer organization and relies on our members to make it run. Please consider joining us!

The Lunch Bunch

By Bonnie Hopler

John Bogart joined LLI/NOVA in January 1998 and his wife, Elaine, joined in July 1999. Shortly thereafter, in 1999, they planned and hosted a Lunch Bunch after each monthly Forum. John chose the restaurant and let the membership know, inviting anyone who was interested to join for further conversation, a casual meal and friendship. The Bogarts hosted the Lunch Bunch until 2013, which may be a record for continuous volunteering for one position within LLI/NOVA. Elaine died in 2015 and John in July 2020.



At the 10th anniversary birthday luncheon, this group won the prize for the prettiest centerpiece.

While on the LLI/NOVA trip to the Great National Parks in June 2019, president Anna Dixon and Paul and Bonnie Hopler decided to revive the after-Forum Lunch Bunch. The Hoplers hosted the group at Kilroy's Restaurant in September 2019, and five luncheons were enjoyed before the pandemic began in March 2020. Scott Pinckney is the host if the Hoplers are traveling. With Paul and Scott having been presidents of LLI/NOVA, the attendees have a wealth of information available for discussion at the luncheons.

In just five meetings, attendance doubled from the first to the fifth one. Attendees suggest restaurants so we have a variety of locations and cuisines. When we are able to get together again in person, the Lunch Bunch will resume, and we invite you to join us to meet people, form new friendships, become involved as a volunteer and have interesting conversations.

Poetry Classes

By Kathryn O'Toole

If someone asks when you read your last poem, you may not be able to recall. For many of us, our most recent experiences with poetry were in school when we learned to read poems curated by high school English teachers or college professors, usually from a small group of classics that helped us pass a test or join a late-night dorm conversation. Or perhaps it was those angsty teenage poems you wrote in your bedroom, late at night, when you were trying to figure out the meaning of life.

And, after college, did you keep reading poetry? Perhaps not so much. You got on with discovering and enjoying your new life as an adult: getting a job, developing a circle of friends, perhaps marrying and raising a family. You may have thought you were too busy for poetry.

However, as we have aged, retired and become more reflective, we have time to rediscover things we put up on the shelf with the intention, "We'll get back to that." For instance, woodworking, bicycling, singing or playing an instrument, drawing or painting. To such a list we would add poetry.

Does Poetry Really Matter?

Poetry widens our vistas. It introduces us to other people, other places, other times as well as to ourselves--our inner selves. It explores the basics, the big issues and our senses; it feeds our emotions; it helps us relate to one another and build community; it starts things, and it ends them. Poetry encourages us to pay attention to what we may have missed in our often screen-filled lives. But sometimes it's about the journey itself, not the endpoint, and as such, it allows the readers to supply their own background, views and aims.

Poetry is not required, nor does it promise, to give the same thing to each reader, but it can connect with the many different experiences people bring to it. So, as you can see, poetry does not have a single, absolute purpose. And, although it cannot heal or correct injustice or other wrongs, it can educate; it can comfort; it can give us courage and insight; it can make us laugh.

Or, as poet William Carlos Williams so eloquently put it in this excerpt from his poem, "Of Asphodel, That Greeny Flower":

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

Therefore, we would say "yes," for all these reasons, poetry is important; it does matter. Access to the arts and literature, which includes poetry, is especially necessary in a world turned upside down with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ah, now that you're nodding your head, let us tell you about LLI/NOVA's wonderful poetry classes

LLI/NOVA's Poetry Classes

Were we to distill LLI/NOVA's two poetry classes to their essences, "Richard Risk's Poetry and You" would be all about connection, while "Poetry Writing – Let's Make It Happen!" is concerned with storytelling.

"Richard Risk's Poetry and You" (the connection part)

LLI/NOVA's four-session "Poetry and You" class was started by Richard Risk, one of LLI/NOVA's original founders. The first class probably was held just a little over a year after the organization's founding in 1996, and it continues to be offered almost 24 years later!

One of the main characteristics of the class is member participation. This is not a lecture class but instead is created by the individual poem choices read by class members. We share poems – contemporary or classic – illustrating a theme, occasion, form or school/movement, or we may read and discuss poems by the same poet, as selected the prior week by class members. This is a wonderful way to get to know other LLI/NOVA members, as it creates connection and community within the class.

Sadly, Richard Risk passed away at the end of 2017 after a long illness, and the class is now led by LLI/NOVA and long-time "Poetry and You" class member Kathryn O'Toole. The class was renamed "Richard Risk's Poetry and You" in honor of the man who gave it life.

We would love for you to join us when "Richard Risk's Poetry and You" class is next given. And, should your interests lead you that way, this class can be your gateway to LLI/NOVA's second poetry class, "Poetry Writing – Let's Make It Happen!"

"Poetry Writing - Let's Make It Happen!" (the storytelling part)

A single-session "Poetry Writing" class was offered first in February 2013 and taught by NOVA's Jennifer Daniels, professor of Creative Writing and American Literature. Since it was Valentine's Day month, the class focused on the contemporary love poem. This was followed in summer 2013 by a multiple-session class entitled "Poetry Writing for People Who Think They Aren't Poets," which was led by two long-time LLI/NOVA members, Ed Sadtler and Helen Harvey, both of whom have been reading and writing poetry for many years. Ed and Helen are members of George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) Poetry Workshop, and Ed is a member of and co-leads the Osher Writer's Workshop.

Ed and Helen continued to lead the class (renamed "Poetry Writing – Let's Make It Happen!" for LLI/NOVA's 2014 winter-spring semester) until Helen retired in 2016. Then, Ed was joined by Carolyn Wyatt for the fall 2016 class. Carolyn has co-led several classes with Ed at LLI/NOVA and OLLI, and they continue to lead the poetry writing class for LLI/NOVA.

The class welcomes all levels of experience: from those who pen poems frequently to the poet "wannabe." All you need is a desire to write poetry. Generally, class begins with a short lesson, followed by writing a poem in response to a prompt, and sharing the poem you've written if you are so inclined.

In the beginning, class members thought it would be impossible to write a poem in a half hour or so but found that, with direction and encouragement, they actually could do it! It's a very satisfying feeling -- so satisfying that in 2016 class members produced an anthology containing some of the poems they'd written.

A final thought: a headstone in the Long Island, New York, graveyard where Jackson Pollock and other artists are buried truly captures the value and necessity of poetry and the arts in this world where we presently find ourselves. It states:

"Artists and poets are the raw nerve ends of humanity. By themselves they can do little to save humanity. Without them there would be little worth saving." 

CHAPTER 4 Special Interest Groups

ARTS & SMARTS

By Doug Johnson

Sometime before January 2010, Donna Trogler and Doug Johnson, ardent museum goers, decided we should form a SIG that would arrange docent-led tours of our magnificent museums.

Doug came up with the name "Arts & Smarts." Donna, who had a vast collection of art books, provided the expertise. Thanks to her and Marianne Moerman, we were able to establish contact with several docents who frequently guided us through their museum. We found the docents to be incredibly well informed and provided wonderful tours of their special exhibits.

In March 2010 we visited the Hirshhorn Museum, in April the National Gallery of Art and in May the Renwick Gallery. In September 2013 we decided to halt this SIG due to falling attendance.

Bridge Group

By Bob Huley

Bridge is one of the world's most popular card games, particularly among seniors. It is also one of the oldest, with early variants played in the 1500s. More recently, it is descended from Whist, and the current version and rules of bridge were popularized by Harold Vanderbilt in the 1920s.

In the United States, bridge gained peak popularity in the 1940s, but still remains extremely popular among millions of players today. In fact, bridge has become exceptionally popular in this time of COVID-19 as it has been adapted to online play using computerized partners and opponents, the ultimate social distancing.

It is not surprising then, given our demographics in LLI/NOVA, that Bridge has been a popular and active SIG since the earliest days. While the actual establishment date of the SIG is lost in the mists of time, Gladys and Bob Bucklew were likely the first Bridge SIG coordinators, and they joined LLI/NOVA in August 1999, approximately three years after the founding. Bob and Gladys set the standard for the SIG's operation with twice monthly games hosted at Mason District Government Center. In those early days, there were approximately a dozen members.

Bob and Merry Huley joined LLI/NOVA in early 2004 and, as bridge fans, they immediately joined the Bridge SIG. When the Bucklews decided to "retire" to North Carolina in August 2007, Bob and Merry volunteered to take over responsibility for the SIG, which at the time had 15 regular members. Over the ensuing years, the SIG grew in membership, peaking at 33 in 2011 and making it the largest and most active SIG.

While membership declined slightly after that peak to around 30, and more recently into the upper 20s, the Bridge SIG has continued to provide members with great bridge twice a month and with friendly competition and camaraderie. Although Bridge SIG membership records don't go back to the Bucklew era, there are four members from 2007 who are still active.

In addition to focusing on increasing participation (more players = more tables = more fun), Bob introduced Chicago scoring to make the games more competitive, game result email summaries and reports in the Newsletter, semi-annual and annual player rankings, use of bidding boxes, and a series of a dozen bridge lessons to improve everyone's play (particularly Bob's). Unfortunately, COVID-19 has essentially precluded play and the last game was held in February 2020. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to the bridge tables soon.

Current Events

By Arlene Gribben

The Discussion Group began in May 2000. In 2006, it was renamed the Current Events SIG with Shirley Lotz as the coordinator. The group met twice a month but in November 2009 changed to monthly meetings.

Marion Jacknow became coordinator in June 2009; then in September 2014, Peter Schwarzkopf took over. In 2017, for a few months, Merry Macke provided leadership. In December 2017, the Current Events group came to an end after a long and interesting run.

Favorite Books Club

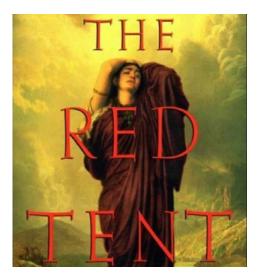
By Lynne Smaldone

In September 2002, LLI/NOVA member Nan Liner held an organizational meeting to form a book club. It was decided they would meet on the third Thursday of the month excluding July, August and December.

Books would be chosen from a variety of genres -- novels, biographies, classics, contemporary literature and others. Members would bring suggestions to the group for consideration and come to a consensus on what to read. There would be a "facilitator" for each book, helping to guide the discussion.

Club history!

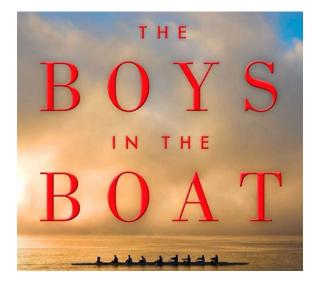
time favorite.



Over the years, our focus has expanded to include Young Adult novels, such as "The Book Thief"; Black History Month, "The Warmth of Other Suns"; and Women's History Month, "My Beloved World."

Highlights along the way:

June 2012: Connie Fullerton suggested that the meeting be devoted to members offering ideas for books to read over the summer hiatus, an idea so popular that "Summer Reads" became a permanent addition.



They met for the first time that October to discuss "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. And the rest is history--at least Favorite Books

As they say, "Books let you travel without moving your feet." Since that day in October 2002, the Book Club has "traveled" far and wide -- to Russia, with "A Gentleman in Moscow"; to China, with "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane"; to post-Civil War Texas, with "The News of the World"; and to the 1936 Olympics with "The Boys in the Boat," an all-



June 2015: The Book Club began collecting children's books to donate locally, an activity that has become an annual event which now includes all LLI/NOVA members.

April 2017: The Book Club invited local author Urmilla Khanna to talk about her memoir "Boundaries of the Wind," which followed her journey from India, as she broke barriers and crossed boundaries to fulfill her dream of practicing medicine in America.

Nineteen years later, we are still here, thanks in no small part to the other coordinators who led the Book Club in the past. Kudos to Nan Liner, Libby Burge, Arlene Gribben and Connie Fullerton.

Financial Discussion Group

By Doug Johnson

> In the October 2011 issue of LLI/NOVA's newsletter, Doug Johnson wrote an article seeking members who would like to participate in a general discussion of financial matters with a focus on investments. From those who responded Doug started the Financial Discussion SIG. Over the years they covered a vast range of subjects including the stock markets, investment research, portfolio management, insurance, annuities and other financial matters.

Members met monthly at the Braddock District Government Center. The goal was to educate and explain the mysteries of the financial world. The meeting format would usually have a topic to consider followed by a discussion of current events.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has been Zooming their get-togethers. Usually between 10 and 15 members participate, bringing a range of financial knowledge.



Foodies & Friends: Exploring Cuisines

By Patti Volz

The Special Interest Group Foodies & Friends was founded in 2004 by three LLI/NOVA members who had a goal of forming new friendships. The idea was that sharing a meal was an alternative way to get acquainted with other members rather than just sitting next to someone in a class or attending a Forum. They hoped that through regular events, people would find common interests and engage in activities outside of "formal" LLI/NOVA events, perhaps forming permanent friendships.



The original name of the group was Adventures in Eating. Several years later, the group was renamed The Gourmands, and then in 2018 it was renamed again to the current Foodies & Friends.

From the beginning, there were few rules or limitations setting up the events.

Members were and are expected to take turns planning events that in some way involve food, but not necessarily dining at a restaurant. Some of our unique events include hands-on and demonstration cooking classes, a tour of a supermarket followed by lunch at the market's buffet, potluck picnics in parks or at a member's home, afternoon tea, brunch rather than lunch, breakfast and holiday celebrations (e.g. St. Patrick's Day, Bastille Day).

The host has complete discretion on location, date, time and number of attendees. An event typically attracts 10-14 people, but groups have ranged in size from as few as 4 to as many as 28. Success is never measured by the number of attendees. Each event is a success.

Over the years, the group has ventured across Virginia, hosting events in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Fauquier, and Arlington counties, plus in the cities of Fairfax, Alexandria and Falls Church. One time the group even crossed the Potomac River and held an event at National Harbor in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

While most have focused on a weekday lunch, several events have been held on weekends. By rough count, the SIG has held about 170 scheduled events and explored nearly every cuisine in Northern Virginia at least once.



Although the most common cuisine sampled is probably Italian, L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls holds the record for most visits at five, closely followed by Le Cote d'Or in Arlington with four. Among the less common cuisines are Russian, Ethiopian, Indonesian, Persian, Cuban, Burmese (or Myanmar) and Nepalese.

Some of our favorite restaurants no longer exist and are missed including Chez Andre in Alexandria, Heart in Hand in Clifton and Le Canard in Vienna. However, the very first two restaurants we visited are still around. Our first luncheon in March of 2004 was at Four Sisters when it was located in the Eden Center. That restaurant now is located in the Mosaic District in Fairfax. That was followed in April 2004 by The Esposito's, which is still at the same location in Fairfax.

A big shout out to Beverly Portman without whose research I couldn't have written this piece!

French Conversation

By Richard Steelman



In 2009, Don and Sally Reynolds approached Al Brothers to teach LLI/NOVA 's French Conversation Group, using a conversational travel book called "French at a Glance." Al (who speaks about 10 languages) agreed and started teaching in February 2010.

Approximately 12-15 students met in the George Mason Regional Library. The meeting room proved to be too small, so the group moved to the Fairfax County Mason District Government Center, which houses the police station and Supervisor Penny Gross's office, and then to meeting rooms at Goodwin House. At this point, Lois Czapiewski became the group coordinator. After she left, Patty and Richard Steelman became the coordinators.

The French SIG depends upon the unique ability and dedication of Al Brothers. He ably runs a group of some 20 members whose French skills vary from average to fluent. Members worked their way through "French in Action," a 624-page book with accompanying videos. Now Al selects other lessons, leads us in conversation and tactfully, and with humor, corrects the many errors. On occasion he will select a French film for us to watch and discuss. Every December we have a holiday luncheon at a French restaurant.

Thanks to this SIG, our conversational French has improved considerably, our knowledge of French culture has deepened, and new friendships have been formed.

Mystery Book Club

By Mary Lu Bednarsky

> "It was a dark and stormy night!" Actually, it was a bright and sunny day when the wannabes Mystery Book Club members met at Janice Smith's home in April 2019, to formally set up this new SIG. The group consisted of ten avid readers who would then meet on the first Monday of each month at the Mason District Government Center. Being a "free-range" group, no one person was in charge, but rather collectively we would meet and select books to read from our favorite authors and explore new ones. Books were chosen several months in advance with one member leading the discussion of their selection for that particular month. The group met until March 2020 and then the pandemic struck. Being "victims" of COVID-19 restrictions, we "suspect" once they are lifted, we will "investigate" mystery books once again.



Photography

By Ray and Mary Lu Bednarsky

In October 2010, a new SIG for photographers was proposed by Peter Schwarzkopf. The first meeting took place in March 2011, was led by Buck Myers, and continues under his leadership today.

The group consists of 12 to 16 members with various skill levels and interests. It meets on the third Friday of each month at the Braddock District Government Center.

The original plan was to host monthly discussions topics, such as improving our picturetaking skills, gaining a better understanding of how to more effectively use our cameras, and how to download and edit digital pictures on a computer.

While this is still a large part of our meeting format, it has become so much more. Buck introduced the group to training tutorials that helped improve our techniques in the use of lighting, composition, portrait, landscape, action photography and other skills.

Each meeting has a theme. Members are provided with on-line sources of inspiration and instruction, and then assigned a photo theme to challenge and exercise new skills. There is so much to explore and learn in photography. As we improve, we immediately see satisfying progress in the quality of our photos and those of our group.

In-person meetings were halted in early 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions; however, the Photography SIG continues on-line. Members' monthly theme photos, along with their comments, are posted on the website for the enjoyment of all. Members also contribute their photos to the monthly newsletter and photos of various events and activities are posted on the website.





Richard Steelman, Theme: Flower Portrait

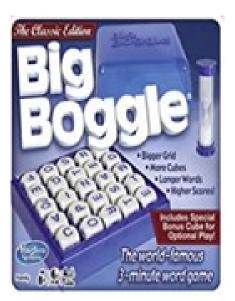
Tabletop Games

By Mary Lu Bednarsky

The Tabletop Games SIG began in January of 2019 when four members--Connie Fullerton, Mary Jablonski, Richard Davis and Mary Lu Bednarsky--met at Connie's home in response to a fall membership survey. After finding a place to meet, a new SIG was formed and we were on our way to fun and games.

Tabletop Games is a new SIG for LLI/NOVA and we had barely gotten our feet wet when the PANDEMIC struck. It is composed of members who love to play games of all kinds and looked forward to the in-person meetings. Until we can do that again, we have gone through a SEQUENCE of emotions trying to traverse this LABYRINTH of health care restrictions. It BOGGLEs our minds as to how long this can go on and it makes one feel like taking a MEXICAN TRAIN to escape it all! As UNO we cannot travel right now, but the everyday TRIVIA tasks keep us going. Please consider joining this small, but fun-loving group and find yourself saying, "I'm SORRY I didn't join this group sooner!"

Meanwhile we are successfully playing our monthly Zoom games of Big Boggle and others, almost as much fun as in person.









Theater: Nothing Like Live Theater

By Arlene Gribben

An article published In the February 2000 Newsletter suggested members may want to organize some groups that would bring people together with like interests, which sounded like the beginning of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The Theater Group was established and hit the road running. Organizers Helen Clark, Virginia Fernbach and Liz Snively identified four events for members to attend: "Reunion" at Ford's Theater; "Dinner Party" at the Kennedy Center; a dinner event with a jazz vocalist; and the Balanchine celebration of ballet at the Kennedy Center.

Soon, Helen Clark became the facilitator with individuals volunteering to "host" specific theater adventures. The outing usually included meeting for lunch or dinner before or after the event.

With such a strong beginning, the group continued to enjoy all types of theater, including drama, comedies, musicals and more. A major focus was supporting and enjoying the talents presented at local Northern Virginia venues, such as the Alden Theater, Arlington Players, Little Theater of Alexandria and West End Dinner Theater. The outings were available to members' friends and families.

Around the beginning of 2009, Norma Hughes became the facilitator. The group continued enjoying plays such as "Twelfth Night" and "Man of La Mancha." The SIG remained a vital part of LLI/NOVA's activities through February 2011, when the group attended their last performance ("The Seagull"). For the next several months, members were encouraged, through the newsletter, to submit their ideas for events.

However, it seems the Theater Group's curtain was closing. As they say in the theater world, "It had a good run."

Visual and Performing Arts

By Anna Dixon

The Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) SIG was formed in 2017 by Anna Dixon. She has been a docent at the National Gallery of Art for 23 years, and she paints and draws in her spare time. The primary impetus for this SIG was to spur a breadth of "artful outings" ranging from museums throughout the Baltimore-Richmond region as well as musical events and group experiential art meetups.

VPA outings and events are numerous and casually arranged. For example, in 2018 a group of 15 carpooled and stayed at the Baltimore Inner Harbor for a weekend packed with museum outings and fine dining. A year later, we trekked to Richmond for a similar weekend. Over the years, the VPA coordinated Kennedy Center visits for concerts and musical performances.

We negotiated LLI/NOVA-member discount tickets for operas and plays at George Mason University's Performing Arts Center. Our VPA secured scarce tickets for several maiden outings to Glenstone and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention our outings to various embassies and for private showings at the National Gallery of Art where works on paper could be viewed with the tutelage of a curator in small areas for close-up inspection.





National Gallery of Art East Building

Walkabouts

By Merry Macke



A walking group, creatively named the Walkabouts, was formed by Liddell McLeod in November 2006. This group of women enjoyed walking together every other week and initially gathered at Eakin Community Park at noon. The time was selected so that members could attend 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. classes if they chose.

Merry Macke took over leadership of the Walkabouts when she joined LLI/NOVA in December 2006. She identified and led more than 28 walks in Fairfax County parks.

Other members of the group volunteered to lead other excursions, such as through the Foxstone Park in Vienna. It is known as "spy park" because former FBI counterintelligence agent Robert Hanssen was arrested there in February 2001 and charged with being a Russian spy.

Two huskies, Tito and Cheetah, joined us occasionally. Because we mostly walked through shady paths, the heat of the summer was not necessarily a problem. The group was put on hold in 2019 but, since walking is so important for the health of seniors, Merry is hopeful the group will be reinstated.

> The history of the first 25 years of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia was compiled and written by volunteer members and is based on the records and data available to us. If you see an error, contact Bonnie Hopler at bdhopler@gmail.com.

> > May Jablonski, Editor Patricia Brennan, Style Editor Bonnie Hopler, Managing Editor May 2021



CHAPTER 5 Chapter 5 "Anticipate" our Future

By Linda LeDuc

We hope you enjoyed reading through the pages of this book and learning about LLI/NOVA's origins, history and evolution.

It is perhaps surprising that so much of the initial focus of the organization continues today -- education, travel, social events and special interest groups.

What does the future hold for LLI/NOVA? Those who join our organization enjoy social contact with others. This is an important aspect of our overall well-being. Membership enables us to meet and make new friends and continue learning well after leaving formal schooling. As Agatha Christie's intrepid detective Hercule Poirot would say, we need to stimulate "...the little gray cells."

LLI/NOVA members have had interesting careers and life experiences, have traveled near and far, love reading and pursue many other interests. Happily, they share their adventures, life skills and lessons.

LLI/NOVA will continue to advance as it has these past 25 years. As one example of how far we have come, think of the previous laborious administrative process to register for classes, while today we do so with a click of the mouse. New technologies enable us to tap into a wealth of information and importantly, to keep in touch even during difficult times. Talented and knowledgeable members will continue to contribute new programming, events and class ideas. And we cannot forget the cadre of fantastic volunteers who keep the LLI/NOVA engine running. We anticipate that even more members will step up to volunteer their time and talent.

Programs have come and gone - some may be resurrected - depending on member interests. We look back at some of the past programs, such as the annual picnic, walkabouts, nimble fingers, various language conversations, current events discussions, LLI/NOVA singers, New York City holiday trip (cannot wait to see the Rockettes again!), foreign film festival, potlucks and theater group, all of which have contributed to fellowship and continued learning and sharing. Maybe these past events will prompt some fresh ideas.

The crystal ball may be a bit misty, but we can pressume that our members will continue to have a thirst for knowledge and camaraderie. LLI/NOVA is not a stagnant organization. It is a living breathing organism that will continue to grow and develop.

We cannot wait to see what the next 25 years will bring!



Lifetime Learning Institute c/o Provost Office, NOVA Annandale

c/o Provost Office, NOVA Annandak Godwin Building (CG), Room 202 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale, VA 22003-3743 Phone: 703.323.3746 Website: Ilinova.org E-Mail: admin@Ilinova.org