



# News & Views

Volume 25—Number 8

October 2021

**Wednesday, October 6**

## **LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM**

Social Zoom: 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. **Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.**  
 (Click on the link in the email announcement)

### **Food Insecurity and its Social Impact**



LLI/NOVA is pleased to welcome Charles Frederick Meng, the Chief Executive Officer of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), to discuss food insecurity in Northern Virginia, its root causes, the breadth of the problem, and specifically what AFAC is doing to alleviate long-term food insecurity in Arlington County and nearby jurisdictions.

The presentation will also provide an overview of the Food Bank/Food Pantry across the nation and in Northern Virginia. Food insecurity is a threat in the best of times. During this prolonged period of Covid with the loss of employment and resulting health and family struggles, it is even more of a challenge. This talk promises to be highly relevant.

Charles Meng joined the staff at AFAC in August 2008. He was a long-time volunteer at Food & Friends in Washington, D.C., where he was named Volunteer of the Year three times. He has had a long career in non-profit management, serving as Vice President for Administration at Georgetown University and as Associate Managing Director of Administration at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He also served as Executive Director of Human Resources at American University and as Director of Personnel Operations for the District of Columbia Government. He has served on business, civic and foundation boards, and was elected as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Georgetown.



Mr. Meng holds a law degree from Georgetown University and earned a Certificate in Educational Management from Harvard University. Longtime LLI/NOVA members will recognize that AFAC has been a recipient of our Community Outreach Program.



## President's Message

I hope that you are enjoying LLI/NOVA's fall class offerings. The Curriculum Committee has again done a wonderful job of presenting our membership with more than 50 classes in a mixture of in-person and Zoom formats. These include topics covering science, art, history, politics, sports, travelogues, poetry, nature and nature trips, religion, cooking, wellness, cultural excursions, and more.

Some of the early classes have been held and the deadlines for registration for a few have passed, but most are still available. Registration is fast and easy through the [LLI/NOVA](#) website. Please remember that masks are required for all classes on the NOVA campus.



Several of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are beginning to meet after months of inactivity due to the Covid pandemic. The following have scheduled meetings and are listed on our fall calendar: Bridge, Financial Discussions, Favorite Books, Photography, Mystery Books, and Table-Top Games. All of these SIG meetings are in-person except for Favorite Books, which may meet via Zoom (TBD). If you have questions, the contact for each SIG is listed on the fall calendar. Many are also listed later in this newsletter.

Come celebrate at this year's annual Holiday Luncheon for LLI/NOVA members and their guests. This will also be a celebration of



LLI/NOVA's 25th Anniversary. It will be held **Thursday, December 2,** at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax.

The reception will begin at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at noon, followed by music and a brief program. We host this annual luncheon

so that everyone has the opportunity to welcome the holiday season with their LLI/NOVA friends and acquaintances – and to meet new members and make new friends.

After a delicious lunch, guests will be treated to holiday entertainment, décor, prizes, and party favors. We expect to continue our tradition of collecting toys and gifts brought by participants to brighten the holidays of children under the care of Bethany House. You will be able to register for this event on our website after October 1, or you can use the registration form that will be in the November newsletter.

LLI/NOVA currently has 12 committees that do the work that allow us to continue offering classes, Forums, SIGs,



cultural excursions, fellowship, and future travel opportunities. Volunteering for a committee can be personally rewarding. It can offer a member the chance to put previous professional skills to work or allow that volunteer to get involved in an area of interest but in which he/she has little or no experience. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information about the volunteer opportunities available, please contact me at [derickmalis@gmail.com](mailto:derickmalis@gmail.com).



Check out LLI/Nova's new Facebook Page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/LifetimeLearningNOVA/>

Our members are encouraged to post information about LLI/NOVA on their own personal Facebook page as a means of attracting new members. For example, one could post information about a class or Forum review and pictures of a presenter.

## Community Outreach



This month we highlight Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which has been meeting the needs of Arlington residents with food insecurity by providing them free weekly supplemental groceries. Families are provided with milk, eggs, meat, fresh fruit, vegetables,

as well as canned goods, cereal, dry goods, bread, and baked goods. Please check the [AFAC website](#) to determine the best method for you to donate, such as online monetary gifts and places to drop off food.

The Community Outreach Team is eagerly awaiting the resumption of in-person Forums in order to facilitate food donations for the community. In the past and throughout the pandemic, we have supported many worthwhile food pantries such as FACETS, AFAC, ECHO, Providence Presbyterian Church, Food for Others, St. Matthew's UMC, St. Mary of Sorrows, St. Phillip's, Bright Paths, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Annandale UMC, Koinonia, and Lorton Community Action Center.

We would like to develop a list of folks willing to transport the food. If you are interested in assisting in this way, please email Joyce Pomeroy and Betsy Pugin. Let us know your interest and the food pantry you would like to serve. We are optimistic about gathering in person and appreciate your help in developing a potential schedule for future months (whenever that might be).

Joyce Pomeroy [lj.pomeroy@gmail.com](mailto:lj.pomeroy@gmail.com)  
Betsy Pugin [betsypugin@gmail.com](mailto:betsypugin@gmail.com)

## LLI Scholarship Program

LLI/NOVA members appreciate being affiliated with Northern Virginia Community College. One way of expressing our gratitude is to support deserving students by awarding scholarships.

Full-time students who are residents of Virginia pay annual costs of about \$5,500 for tuition and \$2,000 for books and supplies. LLI awards scholarships set at a minimum of \$1,000 to help students cover these costs.

The deadline for scholarships to be awarded this year towards next year's expenses is October 15.



Donate by credit card online by clicking [here](#), or you may log into the LLI/NOVA website and click on the Donate button in the yellow banner at the top of the home page.

Personal checks should be made out to LLI/NOVA and should have the word Scholarships on the memo line. Mail checks to:

LLI/NOVA, Attn: Scholarships  
CG Building Room 202  
8333 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22003-3743

LLI/NOVA is 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and donations are tax exempt under Federal regulations.

Prior-year scholarship recipients have communicated their gratitude, plans, and aspirations in thank you notes received by our Scholarship Committee. Please take a moment to read the inspirational notes below.

*Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.*  
Nada Odeh

## Excerpts from LLI Scholarship Program Recipient Thank You Notes

*I am writing to thank you for your LLI Scholarship. I was very happy to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. **I am deeply appreciative of your support.***

*I am a computer science major at NOVA. After getting my associate degree I'm planning to transfer to George Mason University to get the bachelor's degree in computer science. I'm planning to pursue a career in artificial intelligence upon graduating.*

*I am a first-generation college student, maintaining 4.0 GPA, and a mother of three kids, the third being just one year old. . . . Currently I am on the NOVA Presidential Scholars' List for the 2020 summer term. The Presidential Scholars' List is the college's most prestigious award and is reserved for students who have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in a given semester.*

*The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. I am one step closer to that goal. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. Nada Odeh*

***I am very grateful for this scholarship award and your kind donation and support in education.** I moved to the United States in 2017 and I grew up in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Currently, I am a part-time math tutor at NOVA in the Developmental Maths Lab. I am planning to finish NOVA requirements to obtain an associate degree in science with math specialization. After that, I will be transferring to George Mason University for a bachelor's degree in mathematics. While in college, I would be searching for summer internship program that would help me get more experience. I want to become a data analyst and maybe continue for a master's degree. Jolypich Pe*



*I am from Jordan (Middle East). I used to be the solo singer in my high school choir. I used to be a folkloric dance trainer back in Jordan for 12 years. I had many volunteering activities during high school with initiatives that supported less privileged families in Jordan. My major at NOVA is business administration. Planning to minor in international relations. My plans are transferring to a four-year college (George Mason University) and obtaining my bachelor's degree. **I want to establish my own foundation and help the people in need.** Joud Ainabali*

*Hello, the kind folks at Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI). My name is Han Le, and I want to send everyone a sincere thank-you message for supporting my education. I am from Vietnam. My family uprooted and moved to the U.S. when I was 11. . . . Two years from now, I hope to get my degree in linguistics and move abroad to teach English. When I'm not studying or working, I like to dabble in standup comedy. . . . English is something I'm truly passionate about. It never ceases to amaze me how far I've come in my journey of learning the language and laughing with the language. **Once again, thank you so much for everyone's generosity.** Han Le*

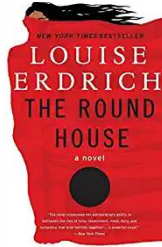


## Special Interest Groups

### Favorite Books Club

Thursday, October 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Supervisor's Room, Braddock District Government Center or Zoom (decision will be made later and emailed to book club members and anyone else who contacts Lynne Smaldone)



Our selection this month is "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich. Winner of the 2012 National Book Award, the novel is set on the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is the story of 13-year-old Joe Coutts, who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and transforms his family.

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone, [smaldonega@hotmail.com](mailto:smaldonega@hotmail.com)

### Mystery Book Club

Monday, October 4, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Kings Park Library

Book: "Field of Bones" by J.A. Jance



Contrary to an announcement in the last newsletter and on our SIG page on the LLI website, we will not discuss the book "A Study in Scarlet Women" by Sherry Thomas until the November meeting.

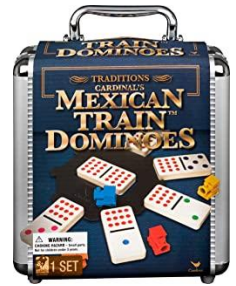
Questions? Contact Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

### Tabletop Games

Tuesday, September 28, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Kings Park Library

The featured game will be "Mexican Train." Come join us for some fun and laughter!



Questions? Contact Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

### Financial Discussion

Meetings will be held Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. at the Braddock District Governmental Center:

- October 14
- November 11

Would you like to join a lively group of LLI/NOVA members who talk about the



fascinating and frustrating world of finance and investments? Whether you are a neophyte looking for some answers or Warren Buffet's "secret advisor," we think you will find this group enjoyable and informative.

Questions? Contact Doug Johnson, [llinovadoug@gmail.com](mailto:llinovadoug@gmail.com).

### Bridge

Our first planned game on September 8 at Mason District Governmental Center was a success. Now we will try something new



and play our second game of the month at Thomas Jefferson Library on September 23 from noon to 4:00 p.m. We return to Mason on October 13. If you are already a Bridge SIG member, you will get a reminder email.

Not currently a Bridge SIG member, but looking for a friendly Bridge group? Well, check out our SIG page ([Bridge – LLI NOVA](#)),

and join us at our next game. Please let Bob Huley know you plan to come. We are always looking for new members. Haven't played in a while? No problem! We welcome all skill levels because what we are serious about is having fun.

For more information, contact Bob Huley, [roberthuley@cox.net](mailto:roberthuley@cox.net)

## Foodies and Friends

Experience a culinary style never featured by Foodies in more than 15 years of food-related events – BBQ! That's right – traditional American BBQ has never been the main attraction at a Foodies luncheon, but now is the time. We will be dining at Mookie's BBQ, 1141 Walker Road, Great Falls, on Wednesday, October 13, at noon.



Use of smoke during cooking defines BBQ. Mookie's features a wide selection of smoked items, along with a variety of American-style BBQ sauces to encompass regional style differences throughout the country. More information can be found at [www.mookiesbbq.com](http://www.mookiesbbq.com).

Begun more than 10 years ago as a competition barbecue and catering business based out of Falls Church, Mookie's opened in 2015 in the space formerly occupied by Serbian Crown so diners could enjoy delicious BBQ in a comfortable restaurant with lots of indoor seating, as well as the more recently-added outdoor seating on a lovely patio. Weather-permitting, we will dine outside on the patio.

Ample parking is available, separate checks will be provided, and Mookie's is handicap-accessible. Please RSVP to Bev Portman, [firse@juno.com](mailto:firse@juno.com), or 703-560-6740, by October 8.

## Cultural Excursions

Registration and payment for excursions is easy – for both members and their guests – through the Class Calendar on the LLI website.

October 27, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Tea at The Tea Cart, a British-style tearoom destination in Berryville, Virginia. For details click here:

[Afternoon Tea at The Tea Cart](#)



You must register and pay for this event before October 19 at noon.

- Members - \$40
- Non-member Guests - \$45

November 9, 11:00 a.m.  
The O Street Museum,  
Dupont Circle,  
Washington, D.C.



Explore a mansion with 100 rooms and 70 hidden doors! Join us for the Secret Door tour. This museum inspires creativity, diversity, and imagination through the fusion of the arts, music, science, and sports. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign up.

## New Members

Welcome, new members! We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.

- Carol Deakman
- Ira Dolich
- Veronica Herczogh
- Inta Malis
- Eileen Miller

*If you have established a member ID and password, you can go to the Member Directory to search for contact information for a current member. At [LLI NOVA](#), click on the "Member Area" and then "Member Directory."*

## Children's Book Drive Reminder

Please consider donating. Just one book can make a difference in a child's life!



**WHO?** R.E.A.D. (Read Early And Daily). Donations this year will be used for "Give a Book, Nourish a Mind," a program that visits food pantries and distribution sites so that families can choose a book for each of their children.

**WHAT?** New books for children from birth to eight years of age. See Wish List on the following page.

**WHERE/HOW?** You can choose from either of the following options.

- Between now and Monday, October 18: Place an online order and have the books sent directly to Lynne Smaldone, 232 North Edgewood Street, Arlington, VA 22201.
- On Monday, October 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Drop off your books at Braddock District Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Road. There will be two cars with open trunks in the parking lot, ready to receive your donations.

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone, [smaldonega@hotmail.com](mailto:smaldonega@hotmail.com)



*READ's mission is to ensure babies and young children have new, quality, culturally relevant books of their own that are mirrors and windows into their everyday lives and communities.*

Please see the book wishlist on the following page.

## Read Early and Daily 2021 Wishlist

### **BOARD BOOKS**

*Moo, Baa, La-la-la* or other books by Sandra Boynton in English or Spanish

*My Very First Bilingual Book* series or other books by Eric Carle (English or Spanish)

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See?* or other books by Bill Martin (English or Spanish)

*I Know..* (Empowerment series) by Stephen Krensky

*Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions* by Abrams Appleseed

*I Will Talk to You, Little One* by Tomie DePaola

*Think Big, Little One* by Vashti Harrison

*Indestructibles* series by various authors

*Jane Cabrera's Story Time* series (nursery rhymes and songs) by Jane Cabrera

*Clive or Rosa* series by Jessica Spanyol

*Hello World!* series by Jill McDonald

*Baby Goes to Market* by Atinuke

*Red House, Tree House, Little Bitty Brown Mouse* by Jane Godwin

*Alphablock* by Christopher Franceschelli

Any of the DK Touch and Feel series (English or Spanish)

Plastic bath books or cloth books for babies

Lift-the-flap books for toddlers

### **PICTURE BOOKS**

*Eyes That Kiss the Corners* by Joanna Ho

*Ada Twist, Scientist* or other books by Andrea Beaty

*Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin

*Ruby Finds a Worry* by Tom Percival

*Supertruck* by Steve Savage

*Under My Hijab* by Hena Khan

*Thank you, Omu!* By Oge Mora

*A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin

*All Are Welcome* or *Big Feelings* by Alexandra Penfold

*The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld

*Dozens of Doughnuts* by Carrie Finison

*Vamos! Let's Go to Market* by Raul the Third

*Little Senses Series* by Samantha Cotterill

*The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal

*We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan Higgins

### **EARLY READERS AND CHAPTER BOOKS**

*Elephant and Piggie* or *Pigeon* books by Mo Willems

*Mo* series by David Adler

*Pedro* or *Katie Woo* series by Fran Manushkin

*Zapato Power* or *Sofia Martinez* series by Jacqueline Jules

*Yasmin* series by Saadia Faruqi

*Sadiq* series by Siman Nuurali

*My Furry Foster Family* by Debbie Michiko Florence

*Narwhal* series by Ben Clanton

*King and Kayla* series by Dori Hillestad Butler

*Charlie and Mouse* series by Laurel Snyder

*Juana and Lucas* series by Juana Medina