



Active Adults
Inspired Learning
Travel & Friendship

NOVA Annandale Campus.
View of the CF Building overlooking the lake.

Volume 26—Number 2

News & Views

February 2022

Wednesday, February 2

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 upcoming email announcement)

The Marine Mammal Center: Advancing Global Ocean Conservation



LLINOVA is pleased to welcome to our February Forum Adam Ratner, Associate Director of Conservation Education with the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, CA. Adam will relate stories about the Center's patients, new research on marine mammal health, and actions we can take as individuals and communities to help protect marine mammals and ourselves for generations to come. He will explain how human actions have an impact on the ocean, address climate change, ocean trash, and sustainable seafood, while providing us with inspiration and empowerment for positive change.

The Marine Mammal Center advances global ocean conservation through rescue and rehabilitation, scientific research, and education. The Center is a global leader in marine mammal health and is the largest marine mammal hospital in the world. It rescues around 2,000 sick and injured seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals each year from over 600 miles of California coast and the Big Island of Hawaii. Seals and sea lions serve as sentinels of the sea, providing a glimpse into the health of the ocean and potential consequences of our own actions on land. The Center supports protection for whales, dolphins, and porpoises in and around San Francisco Bay. Through its educational programs, the center inspires students to become marine science enthusiasts, and provides professional development for teachers.

Adam began at The Marine Mammal Center in 2009. Over the years, using stories of individual patients that have been rescued by the Center, he has challenged people to think differently about ocean conservation. Adam is an expert on topics related to ocean health. He was named one of the "30 under 30 Game Changers for the Planet" by the North American Association for Environmental Education, and is an engaging speaker.



President's Message



LLI/NOVA's spring semester began the first week in January, with a full schedule of classes. Over 50 classes (a total of 64 sessions) are being offered through May. Most of our classes continue to be offered via Zoom,

but some are in-person. All of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have scheduled in-person meetings.

In the case of an upsurge of covid-19 cases, be alert to possible postponements or conversion to Zoom of in-person events. If there is a need to change to Zoom, an email will be sent to **all** LLI members so that those who had not registered before might consider registering to attend virtually. Remember that to check on classes and SIG schedules and to get POC information, you can go to our home page, click "classes and events" and then "[class and event calendar](#)."

SIG get togethers are a lot of fun. In December I joined a dozen other members of the "Foodies and Friends" at the Ristorante Bonaroti in Vienna for a delicious lunch. So don't forget these monthly meetups (or should I say "eatups"?) which are listed on our website calendar.

LLI/NOVA's Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) SIG has two special performances coming up: on May 20, Louis Langree will conduct Bolero at the Kennedy Center, and on June 15, Step Afrika! Drumfolk will be at Arena Stage. Registration deadlines for these events are April 11 and May 18, respectively.

While covid-19 has prevented travel over the past two years, we plan to reconstitute our Study/Travel Committee soon. For many of our members, the LLI trips, both domestic and abroad, have been among their most memorable experiences with LLI; they have included cruises of European rivers and art

tours through Italy. We expect to begin planning for trips in late 2022 or in 2023, as the pandemic permits. Please contact me at derickmalis@gmail.com if you would like to become involved in the planning process.

As Chair of our Automation Committee, Paul Massell has done an outstanding job of revamping the information about our twelve committees, which are presented with descriptions and POCs on the LLI/NOVA web page. Just click on "About Us," then "Organization," then "Committees." Consider joining a committee. It's a terrific way to meet and interact with fascinating and accomplished people while advancing the mission and programs of LLI.

Lastly, I want to thank LLI Board member Steve Cohen for arranging for his sister, Joanne Cohen, to speak at our January forum on "Adapting and Coping with Brain Injury." She is not only the Vice President of the Brain Injury Hope Foundation but is herself a survivor and "thrivor" after multiple traumatic brain injuries. She now educates and shares insights with brain injury survivors and their families. Her moving talk and her upbeat and positive approach were truly inspirational.

Derick Malis, LLI/NOVA President

NEW COVID POLICY

To ensure the safety of our members to the maximum extent possible, the Board of Directors has decided that, effective immediately, all attendees at in-person LLI functions, including classes, forums, and excursions, must show proof of a full vaccination series and also eligible boosters. Details may be found here:

[LLI/NOVA CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) GUIDANCE and RELATED INFORMATION – LLI NOVA](#)

Community Outreach



In early January, we were affected by the biggest snowstorm to hit Northern Virginia in several years. The snow fell hard and heavy, and the after-effects lingered. A relatively short event can have long-term effects.

Homelessness might be viewed in a similar way. A lost job or eviction or illness can have long-standing effects as individuals and whole families try to cope. FACETS has been working in Northern Virginia since 1988. Their mission is to prevent and end homelessness, deliver supportive and long-term housing opportunities, and provide education and community development to break the cycle of poverty.

FACETS partners with over 50 Fairfax County and area faith communities who take turns serving as Hypothermia Prevention Centers in winter. Vulnerable persons in Fairfax County, who might otherwise have to sleep outside, are provided dinner, breakfast, and a place to sleep overnight at these sites.

Your contribution to FACETS will help with costs of hypothermia shelter staff to oversee the program, FACETS' food pantry, and numerous other efforts to break the cycle of poverty. They accept financial donations, food, supplies, and cars. Contact facets@facetcares.org or 703-352-5090.

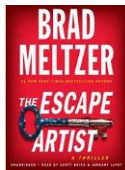
A check can be mailed to FACETS CARES, 10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Special Interest Groups

Mystery Book Club



Monday, February 7
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
"The Last Flight" by Julie Clark



Monday, March 7
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
"The Escape Artist" by
Brad Meltzer

Location: Kings Park Library
POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography



Friday, February 18,
10:00 a.m.– noon
Braddock District
Governmental Center
meeting room, 9002
Burke Lake Rd. (Kings
Park Library building)

New members are always welcome, no matter your experience or level of expertise. Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month.

Regular cameras as well as cell phone cameras are used by members, so no special equipment is needed.

Contact Buck Myers, hbm@hbmphoto.com

Tabletop Games



Tuesday, February 22, 1:30
p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Kings Park Library

We will be playing "Las Vegas Royale." Tabletop Games generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Come join us for some fun and laughter!
POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mbednarsky@gmail.com

Financial Discussion

Thursday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.

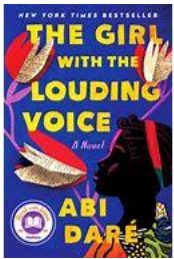


Braddock District
Governmental Center
meeting room, 9002
Burke Lake Rd. (Kings
Park Library building)

Would you like to join a lively group of LLI/NOVA members who talk about the fascinating and frustrating world of finance and investments? Meet with us on the second Thursday of each month!

Contact Doug Johnson,
llinovadoug@gmail.com

Favorite Books Club



Thursday, February 17,
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Braddock District
Government Center
(Supervisor's Meeting Room)
9002 Burke Lake Road

Our selection this month is "The Girl with the Louding Voice," a novel by Abi Dare. Adunni is a 14-year-old girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village, who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself. Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that she encounters along the way, Adunni never loses sight of her goal, to find her "louding voice" and to help other girls do the same.

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone
smaldonega@hotmail.com

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented.....
I forgot where I was going with this.



Cultural Excursions

On February 13 we are offering an Afternoon Tea at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The topic is the "History of the Kiss" which is



appropriate for the month of February. Learn about kissing's origin and its meaning as we explore kisses in art, history and across different cultures. Registration and payment are done directly with

Green Spring Gardens by calling 703-941-7987; ask to be seated with the LLI group. Cost is \$38 for the lecture and tea. To indicate to LLI that you have registered with Green Spring Gardens, please sign up for this event on the LLI website. The coordinator for this event is Bonnie Hopley, our LLI expert on afternoon teas.

Future events are in the planning stage as we await the time when our members are comfortable participating in group activities and transit:

- Gari Melcher Home and Studio in Falmouth, near Fredericksburg. This 27-acre estate features the historic home, art studio and galleries, tours, gardens, and historic buildings.
- Heurich House in DuPont Circle. Tour the mansion that was built in 1894 for German-American immigrant Christian Heurich (1842-1945), whose brewery was the largest in DC. The mansion is the city's best-preserved example of Richardsonian Romanesque residential architecture.
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, one of the most visited attractions in the Richmond area, with more than 50 acres of spectacular gardens, dining, and an unsurpassed gift shop. Its classical domed conservatory is the only one of its kind in the mid-Atlantic.

- Fort Washington National Park. Historic Fort Washington has stood as silent sentry defending the Nation's Capital for over 180 years. It is one of the few remaining Seacoast Fortifications in its original design.



- Hillwood Museum in DC. Marjorie Merriweather Post maintained strong ties to the eighteenth-century French decorating style that she developed in the 1920s, transferring much of this look to her new home at Hillwood in the mid-1950s. Journey through her final home to experience the elegant French drawing room, the efficient and “high-tech” kitchen and pantry, and the many personal touches that made Hillwood one of Washington’s most memorable homes.



- Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens National Park in DC, where we will see the beautiful lotus flowers and water lilies in bloom.



Foodies & Friends A British State of Mind

Friday, February 18, 12:30 p.m.

The Hawk & Griffin, 435 Maple Ave. W, Vienna (at the corner of Route 123 and Nutley St., next to WAWA)



Enjoy a traditional British pub experience, including a uniquely British menu and a selection of British style beers and spirits. The pub has live music, premier sports viewing, and friendly games of darts, too.

The design and décor transport patrons back to the Edwardian era (1900-1918). A sign greets you: “There are no strangers here. Only friends you have not yet met.”

Inspiration for the pub’s name comes from the hawk representing the Madison High School mascot (Warhawk) and the griffin representing the GC Marshall High School mascot. These local schools have a long-standing rivalry that brings the community together.

Separate checks will be provided and there is parking on the premises. The restaurant is handicapped accessible.

We will be seated in a semi-private room (known as a “snug” in Britain) so we are limited to 15 participants for this event. The traditional pub snug was a small lounge area for patrons who preferred not to be seen in the public bar. Women, clergy and the local police officer could enjoy a discreet pint of ale or nip of gin.

Masks are required to enter the restaurant and when not eating or drinking. All attendees need to be vaccinated, for the protection of all. Check out the pub grub menu at www.hawkgriffin.com. RSVP to host Mary Gauthier, at GauthierMary@msn.com or 703-272-7719 by February 15.