



Active Adults
Inspired Learning
Travel & Friendship

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

Volume 26—Number 3

News & Views

March 2022

Wednesday, March 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)

Preparing Young People for the World of Work and Community Service through College, Career, and Citizenship Readiness Programs



We're pleased to have as our March Forum speaker Barbara Smith, Program Manager of Trades and Industrial Education and the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). She will present an overview of the schools' educational courses and outreach programs which help prepare students and adults to navigate post-secondary opportunities such as education, employment, or military service as they prepare for their future. These courses and programs are also designed to help prepare students to become law-abiding citizens of service to their community.

One such program is Adult and Community Education (ACE), which offers lifelong literacy programs and educational opportunities for all residents and students of Fairfax County through creative use of instruction and implementation of best academic and business practices. ACE typically offers approximately 4,000 classes with 20,000 enrollments annually.



Barbara began her career as a business education teacher in 1997, transitioning to leadership and supervisory positions in Career and Technical (CTE) and Adult Education in Newport News, Isle of Wight, and City of Richmond Public schools. In July 2021, she moved to FCPS, bringing her broad knowledge of CTE.

During her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two college-age daughters and dog Bella, traveling, and attending outdoor concerts. Her favorite motto is a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character -- that is the goal of true education."

President's Message



I'm saddened to report the death of Norma Hughes, LLI/NOVA President from 2004 through 2007. Norma attended and was acknowledged at our December Holiday Party/25th Anniversary Celebration at the Fairfax

Country Club. I was informed that she died peacefully in January, surrounded by loved ones. We were so fortunate to be able to enjoy her vibrant and delightful company and honor her at the Celebration. For more on Norma, see the "In Memoriam" article at the end of this newsletter.

At our January meeting, the LLI/NOVA Board authorized a more stringent policy in dealing with the Omicron variant of Covid-19:

Covid-19 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](#)

Last month I gave a shout-out to LLI's Automation Committee Chair, Paul Massell, for the tremendous job he did in improving and updating the committee section of our website. My March shout-out goes to two members of the LLI/NOVA Board and our Membership Outreach Committee, Dina Cotlier and Mary Alexander.

- Dina Cotlier's contributions to the committee's efforts to regain our pre-pandemic membership have been invaluable.

She has been to dozens of recreation centers, senior centers, libraries, and at least one movie theater to post information about the benefits of becoming an LLI member. Dina has also been instrumental in the creation of membership promotional materials such as flyers and posters.

- Mary Alexander is chair of the committee, and she too has spent many hours and travelled many miles promoting LLI membership. She has arranged and participated in meetings with senior residential centers, Fairfax County Public libraries, and an adult education organization.

Thanks to all of the members of the Membership Outreach Committee. Keep up the good work!

I encourage all of you to help recruit new LLI members. Talk it up with your friends and provide them our website address (<https://llinova.org/>) so they can check out the catalog of classes and **JOIN LLI!** It is only by keeping our numbers up that we can have robust class attendance, a large variety of classes, and low annual dues.

Our Study/Travel Committee has been inactive since the start of the pandemic, but we want to get it up and running again. Travel has long been a highlight of LLI membership, resulting in participants gaining wonderful memories of European river cruises, national parks, and other beautiful places. I'm holding a Zoom meeting February 21 with members interested in travel in an effort to re-establish the committee. If you would like to be part of the effort to revive our travel program, please contact me at derickmalis@gmail.com.

Derick Malis, LLI/NOVA President



Welcome, new members!

We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.

- Betty Pelkey (gift membership from her daughter Barbie Simmonds, an LLI member)
- Cindy Miller (recent NOVA retiree who is trying out LLI for free through the NOVA retiree program; she moved to Idaho and will take advantage of our Zoom offerings)
- Ralph Nicastri (also a recent NOVA retiree, living locally, so will be able to take advantage of both our Zoom and in-person offerings)
- Carol Wilson (encouraged and informed about LLI by Phil Centini)

Community Outreach

Community Outreach has been reminding readers each month of the ongoing need of food pantries to receive donations during the pandemic and also because of rising inflation. This month, we focus on an all-volunteer effort to resettle at least ten Afghan refugee families in Northern Virginia.

NoVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together) needs help from people like us.



NoVA RAFT's mission is to be "a grassroots coalition of neighbors committed to supporting newly arrived Afghan families as they join our Northern Virginia community."

There are various ways you can help. NoVA RAFT's website (<https://novaraft.org>) contains information and links with suggestions:

- Donate furniture, electronics, and cars.
- Purchase a digital gift card at Ikea for home furnishings.

- Purchase wish list items from Walmart and Amazon for items needed to set up housekeeping (e.g., kitchenware, beds, mattresses, vacuums).
- Volunteer to drive to appointments, move furniture, and assist with getting our new neighbors acclimated to life here and in the workplace.
- Donate by check. Messiah United Methodist Church has agreed to receive checks and issue receipts. Make checks out to Messiah UMC and put "RAFT Refugee Assist" on the memo line. RAFT is not yet a 501(c)(3), so donations are not tax-deductible. Mail checks to: 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield VA 22152.

Thank you for considering helping our new neighbors.



Special Interest Groups

Photography



Friday, March 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

Financial Discussion



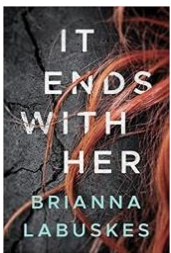
Thursday, March 10,
1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Those interested should
contact Doug Johnson at

LLINOVA DOUG@gmail.com to get the link.

Join us for a discussion about the fascinating and frustrating world of finance and investments. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month.

Mystery Book Club



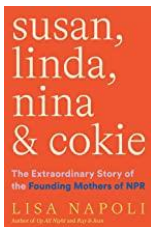
Monday, March 7
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

"It Ends with Her" by
Brianna Labuskes

Location: Kings Park Library

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Favorite Books Club



Thursday, March 17
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

"susan, linda, nina, and cokie" a
group biography by Lisa Napoli

Braddock District Governmental
Center (Supervisor's Meeting

Room), 9002 Burke Lake Rd.

When a pioneering nonprofit called National Public Radio came along in the 1970s, the door for serious journalism by women opened a crack. Four remarkable women came along and blew it off its hinges. Through this biography we come to know these women from radically different backgrounds, their deep and enduring friendships, and the trail they blazed to becoming icons.

Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone,
smaldonega@hotmail.com.

Cultural Excursions

Tea at Miss Minerva's Tea Room



Friday, April 8,
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a full English tea at a lovely tea room in the historic town of Culpeper. The tea is \$39 for members and \$44 for nonmembers.

Free parking is nearby. Please register on the LLI website by March 25, and pay by credit card or check. The address and further details are on the website [here](#). POC is Bonnie Hopley.

City Nature Challenge

Sunday, May 1, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Want to enjoy the outdoors on May Day? The Cultural Excursions Committee is organizing a fun outing. We will be looking for all things living.



During that weekend, groups from the area are participating in an area-wide bioblitz called the City Nature Challenge. Groups will be identifying the plants and wildlife seen in the

Washington area, and cities in the U.S. will be competing to find the most species. See details at <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/>.

Using the free cell phone app iNaturalist, each person makes observations of nature. Our LLI group will be one of a number of groups from the Washington area participating. Before the event, a virtual training session on using iNaturalist will be provided. Invite your friends and family. We will follow the Covid-19 public health guidelines for outdoor activities.

We have yet to identify a location to observe. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Possibilities include the trail around Greenspring Village, South Run Park, Accotink Creek, Sky Meadows State Park, and Manassas Civil War Battlefield). Please send your suggestions to Mary Alexander at mary@mkalexander.com.

**Foodies & Friends —
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day**



Wednesday, March 16, 12:00 p.m.

Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 Randolph St, Arlington, in the Shirlington business district.

Both street and garage parking are available. Beckett's has outdoor seating, so if the weather cooperates, we can sit outside.

Separate checks will be provided.

Come enjoy warm Irish hospitality, engaging conversation, and service provided by people who love their work and take pride in their job. It is easy to see why Irish bars are so successful throughout the world. The reservation is limited to 15 people, so RSVP to our host, Rita Daley at ritadaley@gmail.com or 571-239-9197 as early as you can, but no later than March 13.

ERIN GO BRAGH!

In Memoriam



Norma Hughes

Longtime member and former LLI President Norma Hughes passed away on January 22. Norma joined LLI in 2002 after a 30-year career with the Environmental Protection Agency, during which she assisted in implementing federal clean air and clean water programs. After joining LLI, she soon became known for her many and varied volunteer activities. She served on the Board for six years, (three as LLI President) and chaired the Curriculum Committee, overseeing the development of numerous classes, many of which she coordinated. She also served as co-editor of the newsletter.

Norma was an avid traveler and took full advantage of LLI's travel opportunities. She particularly loved to travel to countries and locations "off the beaten path." In 2007, Norma was instrumental in planning LLI's "South American Odyssey." The trip included sites in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, including the fabled Inca "Lost City" of Machu Picchu, perched on an 8,500-foot-high ridgeline between two peaks that jut into a Peruvian cloud forest and which had lain hidden for centuries.

Norma was actively involved in the Reunion Music Society (RMS), which partnered with Northern Virginia Community College in 1994 to create the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. The RMS affords community musicians the opportunity to play in a full symphony orchestra, and fosters and promotes music of different cultures and heritages. Norma served as both President and Board member of RMS.

Norma was able to attend the Holiday Party/25th Anniversary Celebration at the Country Club of Fairfax in December.

Known for wearing a hat at LLI functions, she is pictured here at that luncheon seated in front of the current and several past LLI presidents. She had a big smile on her face as she looked out at the group and saw a number of hats that were worn in her honor. She will be missed.

