



Volume 26—Number 4

News & Views

April 2022

Wednesday, April 6

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

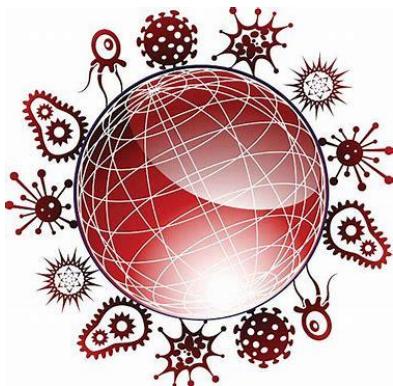
Social Zoom: 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. **Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.**
(Click on the link in the upcoming email announcement)

Outbreaks, Pandemics and Epidemics

When 2020 dawned with a new pandemic, many infectious disease experts were not surprised. Humans have always co-evolved with disease-causing microorganisms. Many hallmarks of human advancement throughout history have actually increased the likelihood of disease outbreaks and pandemics. Our April forum speaker, **Ashley Peery, an educator at Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History**, will discuss some of the past disease outbreaks and the lessons we can learn from them.



Ashley is currently the educator for the exhibit “Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World.” Her job is to coordinate with scientific experts to create educational programs for the public. She also supports and trains a corps of volunteers to interact with visitors to the Outbreak exhibit.



Ashley’s favorite aspect of the job is fostering “lightbulb” moments for the museum’s visitors by making complex topics understandable.

Before joining the Office of Education and Outreach, Ashley received her PhD in Entomology from Virginia Tech. Her research project focused on how the chromosomes of malaria mosquitoes evolve over time. Since earning her degree, Ashley has worked in science education with learners of all ages. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys gardening, cooking, and canning homemade jam. Come join us for this fascinating and very topical Zoom forum.

President's Message



Through the efforts of our committees, LLI/NOVA offers many services to our membership –for a low annual membership fee of \$110. Most of our volunteers find working with other skilled and interesting

individuals on committees quite gratifying.

Please consider joining one of LLI's committees:

- Automation
- Budget & Finance
- Cultural Excursions
- Curriculum
- Financial Review
- Forum
- Membership Outreach
- Newsletter
- Nominating
- Scholarships
- Social events
- Study/Travel (in the process of being reactivated)

For more detailed information about these, see our website. Click on "About Us," then "organization" and then "committees." Or email me at derickmalis@gmail.com and I can help connect you with the right person.

In late February, I held a Zoom meeting with 20 LLI members who are interested in reestablishing our Study/Travel Committee that had become inactive during the pandemic. In the past, this committee coordinated over 30 trips, generating spectacular memories for members taking the LLI trips to Europe, South America, and Asia, and to our National Parks. As a result of that Zoom meeting, nine LLI members agreed to serve on the committee, and Rod Dyck volunteered to chair it. If you wish to join the committee, email Rod at rd2222@aol.com, or call/text him at 703-328-1660.

Our Membership Outreach Committee continues its important efforts to grow our membership back to our pre-pandemic numbers. The committee has:

- Reached out to two senior living facilities and begun discussions with them about offering programs at their sites and encouraging their residents to join LLI.
- Finalized our new promotional flyer, which is included on page 6 of this newsletter.
- Initiated discussions with three organizations to collaborate on programming, space, joint trips, cultural excursions, and member recruitment:
 - Encore Learning, which offers continuing education classes primarily for Arlington County
 - Fairfax County Public Libraries
 - Fairfax Area Agency on Aging.

To help attract new members, we submitted an article to the Sun Gazette about the great benefits of joining LLI. They published it in both the weekend issue (February 25-27) and on March 2. This publication provides local news to Arlington, McLean, Great Falls, Vienna, Oakton, and Tysons. To read the article, click on [Weekend-Feb.-25-26-27-2022.pdf \(sungazette.news\)](#) -- see page 3. This article provides wonderful exposure for our organization to thousands of Fairfax County residents and makes a strong case for joining LLI, stressing the all-inclusiveness of our services for a low annual membership fee.

You can help grow LLI/NOVA by telling your friends and associates about us. Please consider gifting a membership (see our home page) to anyone you know who may be interested but who needs a little extra incentive to join.

Derick Malis, LLI/NOVA President

LLI 2022 Scholarships

This year, through our members' generosity, LLI provided \$18,000 to the NOVA Foundation for seven scholarships:

Scholarship	Number and Amount
Academic	3 @ \$2,000 each
Leadership	2 @ \$2,000 each
Lorin Goodrich Academic	1 @ \$4,000
Knox Singleton Leadership	1 @ \$4,000

The NOVA Scholarship Committee has begun reviewing and screening applicants. Award recipients will be notified in May. Scholarship funds go into recipients' NOVA accounts in time for fall semester tuition, books, and supplies.



The LLI Scholarship Committee will contact award recipients to learn more about them and will share this information with our membership when available.

Each of the scholarships have different criteria, examples of which are:

- Active in volunteer community service
- Good grade point average
- Strong leadership in campus organizations
- Motivation, skills, activities, demonstrable results
- Ability to foster unity in a multicultural environment

Community colleges nationwide have experienced declining enrollments due to the pandemic, although NOVA's losses have been less than the national average. NOVA is now in the spring semester and some classes are being taught in person. However, 60 percent of students are taking courses virtually, with only 40 percent attending in the classroom.

Community Outreach



Faith communities play a big role in addressing food insecurity in Fairfax County. This month we recognize the efforts of **St. Matthew's United Methodist Church** at 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale (where LLI holds some classes).

The church greatly expanded its ministry in this time of tremendous need during the pandemic. Not only does it provide groceries (Joy Fund) but it also provides other essentials.

By adding refrigeration, St. Matthews can now include perishable items which it receives from Food for Others and NOVA Food Rescue. Members of the congregation donate diapers, hand-knitted scarves, mittens, and hats to the families. Each week about 60 families (224 family members) are given a bag of non-perishable food; a \$10 Giant, Aldi or Shell gas gift card; perishable items as available; and diapers if needed.

How can you help? St. Matthews has a basket by its Virginia Avenue entrance for collection of non-perishable items (e.g., cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, soup, crackers) as well as diapers (sizes 5 or 6 are the most requested) and adult incontinence pull-ups in any size. This basket is available Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can also send a monetary donation to the church: 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003 and mark it for "Joy Fund."

Remember no gift is too small nor too large!





Special Interest Groups

Photography



Friday, April 15
10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

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

New members are always welcome. Cell phone cameras are fine.

Contact Buck Myers, hbm@hbmphoto.com

Financial Discussion



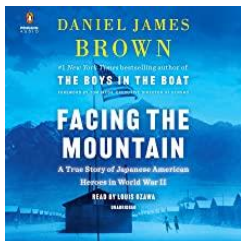
Thursday, April 14
1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Those interested should contact Doug Johnson at

llinovadoug@gmail.com to get the link.

Join us for a discussion of the fascinating and frustrating world of finance and investments. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month (on Zoom until further notice).

Favorite Books Club



Thursday, April 21
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

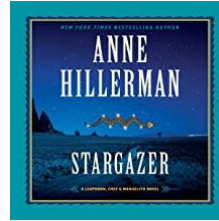
"Facing The Mountain"
by Daniel James Brown

Location: Braddock District
Governmental Center

(Supervisor's Meeting Room),
9002 Burke Lake Rd.

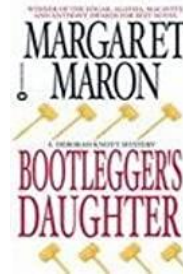
Questions? Contact Lynne Smaldone,
smaldonega@hotmail.com.

Mystery Book Club



Monday, April 4
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

"Stargazer"
by Anne Hillerman



Monday, May 2
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

"Bootlegger's Daughter"
by Margaret Maron

Location: Kings Park Library

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mbednarsky@gmail.com

Tabletop Games

Wednesday, April 20, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Kings Park Library

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mbednarsky@gmail.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. Register

on the LLI website by **March 25**. Find details on the website [here](#). POC is Bonnie Hopler.

Nature Talk on Zoom

Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Mary Alexander, LLI member, will be giving a Zoom talk on "Nature in your Backyard: Its Secrets and Wonders." Mary is a naturalist who will share lots of interesting information about plants and animals. This is a Zoom event sponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL).

To participate, register directly with the library on its calendar of events webpage ([Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home](#) (fairfaxcounty.gov). After you register, FCPL will provide the Zoom link.

City Nature Challenge



Sunday, May 1, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Want to enjoy the outdoors on May Day? The Cultural Excursions Committee is organizing a fun outing on Sunday, May 1, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting at Mason District Park's amphitheater. Our LLI coordinator is Mary Alexander, a naturalist. We will have other naturalists join us on our walk.

See the City Nature Challenge website: <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/>. This is a public event where groups in the Washington area engage in documenting its plants and wildlife. Using a free cell phone app, iNaturalist (iOS and Android), each person makes observations of nature by taking a picture and identifying the species on the app, with the challenge of each city in the U.S.



competing to find the most species. Our LLI group will be one of a number of groups from the Washington area participating in the effort.

After you have downloaded the iNaturalist app, you can review a tutorial on how to use it at: <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/resources>. Register for this event on the LLI calendar, so we can get a head count. Join us, and invite your friends and family. We will follow the COVID-19 public health guidelines for outdoor activities.

Foodies & Friends

Thursday, April 21, 12:00 p.m.

Mama Chang, 3251 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax (across the street from Artie's restaurant), 703-268-5556



This upscale casual dining restaurant solidified legendary Chinese Restaurateur Chef Peter Chang to his Northern Virginia roots. **Mama Chang** celebrates the extensive culinary contributions of the Chang women, including Peter's grandmother, mother, daughter, and Chef Lisa Chang, his wife. The menu heavily emphasizes Hunan, Szechuan, and Hubei cooking, and also includes homestyle Chinese recipes, many of which have remained in the Chang family for generations. Vegan/gluten-free options are available and individual checks will be provided. There is plenty of parking and the restaurant is totally accessible. Check out the restaurant's website at www.mamachangva.com. Our host for this event is Tempie Tavenner. RSVP by April 15 to Tempie at TemTav@verizon.net. Hope to see you there!



Welcome, new members!

We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent. Our new members this month learned of LLI from neighbors and friends. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join, too.

- Lucy Diercks
- Geneva Pope

LLI/NOVA



Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern VA at NOVA Annandale Campus

Meet new friends and enrich your life! Attend interesting classes, participate in regional excursions and travel, and join special interest groups (SIGs), such as **Bridge, Book Club, Tabletop Games, Finance, Foodies, and Photography.**

LLI/NOVA is a non-profit, member-run organization offering stimulating virtual and in-person activities for adults 50+. Visit us online to see everything LLI/NOVA has to offer, including 130+ single-session courses. Register for as many as you wish for a modest annual membership fee of \$110.

*Join us for FREE
at a SIG event or at our monthly Forum*

Have questions? Contact us via email, the web, or phone!

- admin@llinova.org
- <https://llinova.org>
- (703) 323-3746

Come Join Us!

