



# News & Views

Volume 26—Number 11

November 2022

## Wednesday, November 2 -- LLI/NOVA FORUM

**NEW LOCATION:** Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

Socializing starts at 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.

*Please remember our 100% masking policy is still in effect.*

### Author Ellen Crosby -- Virginia Wine Country Mysteries



Ellen Crosby, award-winning author of the Virginia wine country mystery series, will share how she became a mystery writer and her creative process through final publication. While living in the nation's capital, she was a freelance journalist for the Washington Post and other publications, and a Moscow correspondent for ABC Radio News. When she turned to writing mystery novels full time, her fictitious backstories were equally or more intriguing than the national and international issues she wrote about when covering news.

Ellen's mysteries are set in the heart of Virginia's horse and hunt country in the fictitious village of Atoka. Main character Lucie Montgomery returns home from France after her father's death to assume control of the family vineyard on farmland held by her ancestors since the French and Indian War. The series generally bridges a present-day mystery with an event from Virginia's rich history.

Ellen has also authored two novels about an international photojournalist, Sophie Medina, who returns to Washington after living and working in London for many years. She becomes embroiled in international intrigue involving her CIA-operative husband and a friend, who happens to be a controversial environmentalist. More Sophie Medina novels are planned.

Ellen's books have been nominated for several awards including the Mary Higgins Clark Award, the Library of Virginia People's Choice Award, and the Library of Virginia Fiction Award. [The Riesling Retribution](#) won the 2009 Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Best U.S. Wine Literature Book.

Join us for this in-person Forum and learn about mysteries in your own backyard.

**Forum location:** Little River United Church of Christ is directly across Little River Turnpike (Route 236) from the Nova Campus main entrance. From the Beltway, drive west on Route 236, turn RIGHT at the Lake Drive light, and follow the road to the church parking lot.

### The After-Forum Lunch Bunch Is Back!

The Lunch Bunch will meet after the Forum on November 2 at Giardino Italian restaurant, 8944 Burke Lake Rd., Springfield, in the Kings Park Shopping Center. Separate checks will be provided. Paul and Bonnie Hopley will host and will get a count of attendees at the Forum. Contact them with any questions: 703-978-9381 or [bdhopley@gmail.com](mailto:bdhopley@gmail.com).

## President's Message



I'm delighted to report that our efforts to attract new members are paying off. We have risen from a low of 283 in 2021 during the pandemic to 305 today, and it is important that we continue our growth through multiple initiatives:

- Our Membership Outreach Committee has been getting the word out (e.g., flyers and brochures) about our organization and its value.
- We offered promotions, such as reaching out to the Virginian (senior living facility) and securing ten memberships.
- We made three classes available to AARP members, and expect some may join LLI.
- We offered to Encore Learning's members a "summer camper" program to take LLI summer classes for a \$55 fee, without joining LLI. Several of those "campers" have decided to join LLI for a whole year, which entailed making an additional \$55 payment to bring their total fee to the usual \$110 annual dues.
- We donated a one-year LLI membership which was sold at the September silent auction held by (and benefitting) Friends of Green Spring Gardens (FROGS).

Please help us keep the momentum going. Encourage relatives, friends, and neighbors to join. Our \$110 annual membership fee for an extensive array of classes, SIGs, and socializing opportunities is the best deal in town!

Consider travelling with LLI/NOVA on its exciting May 2023 "Jewels of Ireland" tour, which is open to LLI members and their friends and families. See the Study Travel Program article in this newsletter.

Thank you to all who contributed to our LLI/NOVA Scholarship Fund for the 2022-2023 academic year by the October 14 deadline. We

will have a report of this year's fundraising total in the next newsletter. Of course, donations are welcome at any time and will go toward the following year's scholarships.

Our long-standing Financial Discussion Group is currently inactive because we are in need of a group leader. Please consider guiding this SIG and running its meetings. If interested, please contact me at [derickmalis@gmail.com](mailto:derickmalis@gmail.com). Orientation will be provided.

Consider coming to the campus for a popular NOVA activity: the NOVA Annandale Ceramics Program's sale on Wednesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the first floor patio (outside) of the CA building, or if it rains, in CA's first floor entryway. Items are made by NOVA students and faculty and are modestly priced. Proceeds support the Ceramics Program. Free parking. Questions? Contact Virginia Pates at [vpates@nvcc.edu](mailto:vpates@nvcc.edu).

Lastly, please consider attending our Winter Luncheon and registering soon!

Derick Malis  
LLI/NOVA President

### Winter Luncheon



Wednesday, December 7  
Country Club of Fairfax

Purchase tickets for yourself and your guests before the **November 23 deadline!**

The reception and cash bar start at 11:00 a.m. Lunch is at noon, along with music, a brief program, prizes, and joyous camaraderie! Register and pay online [here](#) or fill out and mail the form on the last page of this newsletter. We'll continue our tradition of collecting new, unwrapped toys for children (0-10 years old) under the care of [Bethany House](#).

Point of contact is Bonnie Hopley (703-978-9381 or [bdhopley@gmail.com](mailto:bdhopley@gmail.com))



Welcome to our newest members:

- Betsi Closter
- Melanie Coughlan
- Michael Hamilton
- Sheri Stroud
- Linda Weinstock

## Study Travel Program



LLI/NOVA's May 2023 trip to Ireland is open for registration for LLI/NOVA members and friends and family. Details and registration information are available on the Study/Travel Program page of LLI's website [here](#).

To take advantage of a 5% early booking discount, travelers must register and make a \$250 non-refundable deposit no later than **November 25**. The maximum number of participants is 44. Register now so you don't miss out on this exciting trip.

Contact Committee Chair Rod Dyck ([rd2222@aol.com](mailto:rd2222@aol.com) or 703-328-1660) with any questions or comments.

## Community Outreach



Thank you for your donations last month to the Facets food pantry. At the November Forum we will be collecting donations for [ECHO](#) (Ecumenical Community Helping Others).

ECHO, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charity, provides food and financial help to people with short-term emergencies. They have been serving the Springfield area for many years and their pantry is always in need.

They can especially use the following items: canned fruit, evaporated milk, fish, cooking oil, crackers, dates, nuts and other healthy snacks, juice, mac and cheese, boxed pasta, bags of rice, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, deodorant, and paper towels.

Checks may be mailed to:

ECHO  
7205 Old Keene Mill Rd.,  
Springfield, VA 22150

We are not able to accept cash or checks at the Forum.

Betsy and Joyce

## Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

**KPL = Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Rd., Burke**

**Bridge – Wednesday, November 9, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center** (OK to bring a bag lunch). All levels of players are welcome.

Click on [Bridge – LLI NOVA](#) Contact Bob Huley, [roberthuley@cox.net](mailto:roberthuley@cox.net)

**Favorite Books – Thursday, November 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at KPL**

"Clap When You Land," by Elizabeth Acevedo, about Camino Rios, who lives in the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira Rios, a native of New York City. They are strangers to each other whose lives are suddenly linked by tragedy. Contact Lynne Smaldone, [smaldonega@hotmail.com](mailto:smaldonega@hotmail.com).

**Financial Discussion Group – discontinued until new leader is found.**

Please consider volunteering! Contact Derick Malis, [derickmalis@gmail.com](mailto:derickmalis@gmail.com)

**Foodies & Friends – Friday, November 18, 12:30 p.m. – See article on next page for details.**

**Mystery Books – Monday, November 7, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL**

“The Man Who Died Twice” by Richard Osman

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

**Photography – Friday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at KPL**

New members are always welcome. Cell phone cameras are fine. Normally meets the third Friday of every month. Contact Buck Myers, [hbm@hbmphoto.com](mailto:hbm@hbmphoto.com)

**Tabletop Games – Wednesday, October 26, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at KPL – “Apples to Apples”**

November meeting date and game are to be determined.

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

**Visual and Performing Arts** – The best deal ever! For \$15.00 (plus a \$4.00 service fee when you order online) per seat, LLI members may purchase tickets for selected performances listed [here](#) at George Mason University Center for the Arts. You can also buy these tickets in person at the GMU box office without service fee; just bring the special discount code from the LLI VPA site [here](#). Also, you can enhance your experience by attending the associated pre-performance discussion 45 minutes prior to the shows.

**Foodies & Friends**



Friday, November 18  
12:30 p.m.

**Mama Tigre**

10443 White Granite Dr.  
Oakton

Mama Tigre chef and owner Renu Prakash and her team love the freedom that comes from unleashing creativity in her kitchen. Chef Prakash expresses her nurturing spirit through her play with spices. She focuses on bringing different cultures, flavors, and spices to wholesome food that feeds mind, body, and soul. With a base of native Mexican comfort cuisine, she infuses an array of exotic and complex spices, making the ordinary extraordinary and exciting. The Washington Post recently listed the restaurant as having one of the 25 best tacos in the D.C. area. Separate checks will be provided and the restaurant is totally accessible. Plenty of parking is available. Check out the menu [here](#). Please respond to our host Edie Berman at [ediebe@aol.com](mailto:ediebe@aol.com) or 703-534-5565 by November 14. Hope to see you there!

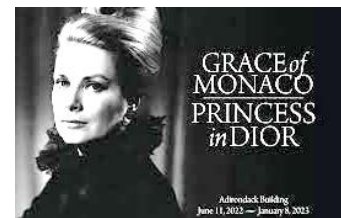
**Cultural Excursions**

Contact Carol Fagnani, Cultural Excursions Committee Chair, with trip ideas or if you are interested in joining this committee.

**Hillwood Museum, DC**

Tuesday, December 13  
10:00 a.m.

4155 Linnean Ave. NW  
Washington, DC



Tour the mansion, gardens, and this first-in-North America exhibition. Explore the fashion and mementos from the legendary life of Princess Grace of Monaco. Celebrate her dedicated relationship with haute couturier Christian Dior. A horticulturist-led garden tour, the Bones of the Winter Garden, is available at 10:30 a.m. Guided tours of the mansion are at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Join us for lunch at the café at member’s expense. Please register (both members and their guests) on LLI’s website [here](#) by December 11 so we have a head count. Cost is \$12 at the door or in advance at the Hillwood Museum [website](#). Trip Leader is Carol Fagnani.

The Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia

## Registration for Winter Luncheon

Wednesday, December 7

<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Cash Bar Opens at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon at Noon	The Country Club of Fairfax 5110 Ox Rd., Fairfax	Members: \$45 Non-Members: \$50

### RESERVATION DEADLINE: **NOVEMBER 23**

**Directions:** From the Beltway, take the Braddock Road West exit. Go approximately 5½ miles (just past George Mason University) and turn left onto Ox Road. Go approximately ½ mile and turn right into the Country Club (entrance is in front of the large white sports tent). Follow road until it dead ends in the parking lot in front of the clubhouse.

*Don't forget toys for the children! This is completely voluntary, but if you choose to participate, bring a new, non-gift-wrapped toy for distribution to children ages birth-10 at Bethany House of Northern Virginia.*

Register and pay online or fill out the reservation form below and return with check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Choice:  Pistachio-Crusted Chicken  
 Shrimp Scampi  
 Vegetarian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Choice:  Pistachio-Crusted Chicken  
 Shrimp Scampi  
 Vegetarian

Check mark ✓ your meal choice. In addition, circle your choice if you wish it to be gluten free

Total No. of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to LLI/NOVA and mail to:

Lifetime Learning Institute/NOVA

CFH Building, Rm 202

8333 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, VA 22003-3743

Reservation Deadline: **November 23**

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Office Use Only

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

December 7, 2022 Winter Luncheon

Members: \$45

Country Club of Fairfax

Non-Members: \$50