



News & Views

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December 2022

There will be no Forum in December.

Here's a sneak peek at upcoming forums which will be on **Zoom**:

January 4: Join us on Zoom for a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates. Fairfax's own Vivian Watts will give us a first-person account of what it is like to be a delegate to the House and the challenges of supporting her constituency and the interests of the commonwealth.

February 1: "4 Paws for Ability," an organization that trains service dogs, will describe how their work greatly enriches the lives of people with disabilities. They train and then appropriately place 11 different types of service dogs who perform a multitude of tasks to mitigate various disabilities, including Alzheimer's, autism, diabetic alert, and seizure detection.

March 1: Arch! Arch! Our Forum speaker will be Arch Campbell, "The Accidental Critic." For years, Arch was a fixture on channel 4's WRC News, first as a feature reporter (including a story about the mysterious "Cabbit" that LLI board member Steve Cohen helped solve) and then as an entertainment critic. His everyman approach endears him to a large audience. Expect a lot of laughing and entertaining tales!



Winter Luncheon – Last chance to sign up!

Wednesday, December 7, 11:00 a.m.
Country Club of Fairfax

November 29 is the NEW deadline to purchase tickets. Register and pay online [here](#).
Point of contact is Bonnie Hopler (703-978-9381 or bdhopler@gmail.com)

Community Outreach

Your response to the food collection at the October and November Forums was truly heartening! After our two-year hiatus for in-person Forums, so many of you remembered to bring something when you came. The folks at Facets sent their enthusiastic thanks by way of the Hoplers, who delivered our donations in October. Also, ECHO sent a huge "thank you" for the 82 pounds of food and cleaning supplies we contributed in November.

Since there will be no in-person Forum until April, please remember to keep on giving to various food pantries and other charities that are always in need of items to help their clients. *You* can be a lifeline for others.

Betsy and Joyce

President's Message



Our membership is currently at 303, having increased from our 2021 pandemic low of 283, but we need to continue our efforts to attain our previous level of about 400 members. This will ensure we can provide a robust schedule of classes and maintain

our low annual membership fee. Our best recruitment tool is YOU, by your talking to friends, neighbors, and family, inviting them to Forums, and pointing out the tremendous value and pleasure of being involved in our classes, excursions, and other activities.

Our Membership Outreach Committee continues its many efforts, including:

- Collaborations with the Virginian Senior Living Center, AARP, and Encore Learning
- Contacting new members and those needing to renew, to encourage their active participation with LLI

Please consider attending our annual Winter Luncheon on Wednesday, December 7, at 11:00 a.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax. Planning this event is a big effort, and the results are merrier with abundant participation! There will be a delicious lunch, entertainment, decorations, and fellowship. Register by **November 29**. See the article on page 1.

A huge shout-out goes to our Scholarship Committee and its chair Dick Martin. Because of the generosity of our members during the 2022 fundraising drive, we are able to provide NOVA students with \$18,000 of scholarship assistance. See the article on page 3.

I encourage our members to participate in the following upcoming LLI events:

- Our third Zoom class collaboration with AARP on Monday, December 12, at 1:30 p.m. Learn about "Chautauqua Institution," a New York community of artists, educators, thinkers, faith leaders, and

friends dedicated to exploring the best in humanity. Register online [here](#) by noon, December 10.

- Hillwood Museum tour in DC on Tuesday, December 13. Register by December 11. Details are online [here](#).
- LLI trip to Ireland in May 2023. Get information and register for the "Jewels of Ireland" adventure [here](#). Register by **November 25** for a 5% early booking discount. See article on page 3.

Finally, I want to wish all of our members a happy Thanksgiving and joyous winter holidays.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President



Class Coordinators Needed

With the passing of Nan Peck, who served as our primary link to NOVA professors, the Curriculum Committee urgently needs volunteers to contact NOVA professors for class offerings and to assist with introductions and class setup. We will provide training on required duties, including access to NOVA audio-visual equipment. These duties are not difficult but are essential to maintaining the high caliber of our classes. If you are interested, please contact Dick Robison (the_robisons@verizon.net) or Phil Centini (phil.centini@verizon.net).



Welcome to our newest member,
Linda Cannon

Study Travel Program



LLI/NOVA's May 2023 trip to Ireland is open for registration for LLI/NOVA members and their friends and families. This exciting "Jewels of Ireland" trip, provided through AAA/CIE, begins on May 14. Additional trip details and registration information are available on the Study/Travel Program page of LLI's website [here](#). To go directly to the detailed trip itinerary, click on: [itinerary](#).

Travel experts generally regard CIE as the premier tour operator for value tours of Ireland. LLI/NOVA members provided very positive feedback on past LLI/NOVA trips operated by CIE (2018 Dubrovnik to Venice, 2017 Scotland, and 2007 Ireland trips).

To take advantage of a **5% early booking discount**, travelers must register and make a \$250 non-refundable deposit no later than **November 25**.

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

LLI/NOVA Scholarships



Thanks to donations from LLI members, \$18,000 in LLI-funded scholarships will be awarded to NOVA students for the 2023-24 academic year. President Derick Malis presented the check to Kelly Persons, Executive Director of the NOVA Educational Foundation, on October 27.

The Scholarship Committee allocated the scholarships as follows:

- LLI Knox Singleton Leadership, \$3,000
- Lorin Goodrich Academic, \$3,000
- Three LLI leadership scholarships, \$2,000 each
- Three academic scholarships, \$2,000 each

Scholarship recipients are selected by the NOVA Office of Student Financial Aid and the scholarships are managed by the non-profit NOVA Educational Foundation. We can be proud that our long-standing LLI scholarship program provides financial support to NOVA Annandale campus students with financial need, high academic achievement, and leadership potential. The recipients greatly appreciate the generosity of LLI members.

LLI/NOVA Scholarship Impact

Phung Tran is a recipient of an LLI Leadership Scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year at NOVA/Annandale. She grew up with her family in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, where she graduated from secondary school. Her parents financed her move to Virginia, where she has relatives.

Phung Tran is beginning her second year at NOVA, where she is pursuing an associate's degree in engineering. She enjoys NOVA's diversity and small classes, and works on campus tutoring students in math and science. After NOVA, she hopes to get a scholarship to transfer to a four-year college and earn a degree in chemical engineering.

She wrote the following message to LLI:
"I am excited to learn that I was selected as a recipient of the LLI Leadership Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous support. Your generosity has inspired me to help others 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."



Two special classes are being offered to LLI members by Encore Learning. No advance registration is required. Just connect to these free events online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84268052749>

- Monday, December 12, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
“The Mathematics of Beauty and the Beauty of Mathematics”
Speaker: Dr. Monica Neagoy, mathematics educator and artist. Find more details [here](#).
- Monday, January 9, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
“Sinkable: Obsession, the Deep Sea, and the Shipwreck of the Titanic”
Speaker: National bestselling author Daniel Stone. Find more details [here](#).



Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

Bridge – Wednesday, November 23, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, and Thursday, December 8 at Mason District Governmental Center. Don't forget to bring a bag lunch. All levels of players are welcome.

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

Favorite Books – No meeting in December. POC Lynne Smaldone, smaldonega@hotmail.com

Financial Discussion Group – discontinued until new leader is found.

Please consider volunteering! Contact Derick Malis, derickmalis@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Wednesday, December 14, 12:45 p.m. – see article on next page for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, December 5, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL, “Innocence” by Dean Koontz.

Monday, January 9, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL, “The Guest List” by Lucy Foley.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, December 16, 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

Tabletop Games – No meetings in November or December. Games will resume in January.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts – The best deal ever! For \$15.00 (plus a \$4.00 service fee) per seat, LLI members may purchase tickets for selected performances at George Mason University Center for the Arts. (Note that tickets may also be purchased in person at the box office, where no service fee is charged.) Additionally, you may attend a pre-performance discussion 45 minutes prior to the show. The list of performances and information on purchasing tickets is available [here](#).

Foodies & Friends

Wednesday, December 14, 12:45 p.m.



Aracosia
1381 Beverly Rd.
McLean

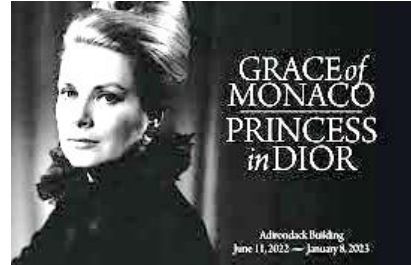
Aracosia McLean's classical recipes bring

the wisdom of their ancestors to today. The restaurant is known for its warm, kind service, large portions, and a trove of family recipes from Kabul-born owners Omar Masroor and his wife, Sofia. Aracosia McLean's menu caters to every diet from paleo to vegetarian. (Its sister restaurant, Bistro Aracosia, was voted one of the top 50 Best Restaurants in the United States for vegetarians by Forbes magazine and Aracosia McLean serves many of the same dishes.) Aracosia has a large selection of stews, including veal and mushrooms in a velvety cilantro-laced gravy and Rumi's chicken, in a zesty, sweet tomato sauce. Aracosia's mantu, dumplings stuffed with minced beef and laden with garlicky yogurt, and aushak, meat- and leek-filled dumplings that bring to mind ravioli, are considered "don't miss;" but all dishes are brighter and more complex than your usual Afghan restaurant. Tom Sietsema (Washington Post's food critic) named Aracosia one of his eight favorite places to eat in February 2021. Do check out their menu [here](#). Our host for this event is Loren Brandman. RSVP to Loren at lorenbrandman@gmail.com no later than Sunday, December 11.

Details: We will dine in Aracosia's heated outdoor seating area, at tables accommodating groups of four to six. One check will be provided per table, so please bring cash or a money-transfer app on your phone (e.g., Venmo) to pay your share of the check for your table. The entrance to the building's free parking lot is on Beverly Road. An elevator takes you to the restaurant level. The restaurant is totally accessible.

Cultural Excursions

Contact Carol Fagnani (see online member directory), 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.

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. 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.



*Just remember,
once you're
over the hill,
you begin to
pick up speed.*

In Memoriam



LLI member Nan Peck passed away on October 26. During her four years with LLI, she made tremendous contributions: coordinating and teaching countless classes; liaising with NOVA administration; recruiting current and retired NOVA professors as instructors; serving on the LLI Board of Directors and the Curriculum Committee; helping transition LLI to Zoom meetings and classes during the pandemic; and tirelessly promoting LLI/NOVA. For her tremendous contributions she was presented the LLI Meritorious Service Award in 2021. Nan had many friends and was known for her zest for life.

Nan was raised in Montgomery, Illinois, the fourth of 13 children. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees at Illinois State University and then worked on Capitol Hill and later became an associate professor at NOVA. She taught speech and communications and was known as a wonderful communicator and listener.

Nan volunteered for the Fairfax County suicide hotline for many years, where she was the director and training coordinator. She was also a very creative and talented stamper and card maker. Her cards were highly personalized and were considered works of art. Sports were a big part of her and her husband Paul's lives. Nan was both a participant and a spectator, and particularly loved volleyball and baseball. She served as a coach for youth volleyball teams.

A celebration of life for Nan Peck will take place on February 4, 2023. More information will follow.



Tribute to Nan Peck

By good friend Barry Centini
9/16/2022

Just plain **NAN**, a living palindrome —
nothing fancy like Nanette or Nancy.

The shortness of her name is **NAN** to the core —
what you see is what you get, no less, no more!

Forward or backward, Nan's exactly the same —
honesty by the score,
principled to her inner core,
with a dogged sense of right and wrong.
AND, she won't hesitate to speak out whenever
she sees injustice or blatant ignorance.

If in life, you are confused about what to do,
simply ask yourself "what would Nan do?"

First time I saw NAN she was playing racquetball,
whipping the tails off three fairly athletic men.
She fit in with the gym crowd from the very start,
and though "one of the guys," she definitely
stood apart.

That one of her competencies is communication
was obvious when you saw her teaching,
coaching, coercing, counseling, or just quietly
NANing!

NanPaul sounds like a province in China,
but we know the only way to describe
the relationship [with husband Paul] is
by merging their names as
they merged their souls.

We'll miss you, NAN

