



News & Views

Volume 27—Number 1

January 2023

Wednesday, January 4

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)

Delegate Vivian Watts: Staying Relevant in the Public Policy Debate



Our speaker will be the Honorable Vivian Watts, who represents the 39th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, which includes part of Fairfax County and the NOVA Annandale campus. She will provide her insights and experiences based on nearly 50 years of serving the people of Fairfax County. She welcomes new, diverse political voices and believes older citizens have an indispensable role to play. Delegate Watts will discuss a wide range of public policy challenges, such as what is taught in schools, nursing home staffing, political polarization, tribalism, greenhouse gases, women's roles, and traffic congestion. Do join us for a rare behind-the-scenes look at the challenges of supporting her constituency and the interests of the Commonwealth.

Delegate Watts, a Democrat, is the longest-serving woman in the Virginia House of Delegates, first being elected in 1981. She is Ranking Minority Member of the Finance and the Courts committees and also serves on Transportation and Rules. She also served as Virginia Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety under Governor Gerald Baliles.

In the House, she has focused on progressive tax policies and increased funding for education, transportation, and mental health services. In 2022, she introduced 82 pieces of legislation that ultimately were enacted.

Before running for office, she had 15 years of active involvement in Fairfax County and was named Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. She has received numerous awards and honors, including Washington Post "Citizen of the Year"; Most Promising House Freshman; Lifetime Achievement Award from the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance; and in 2020, the Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award. Delegate Watts is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She and her husband, David, have been married for 63 years and have two children and four grandchildren.



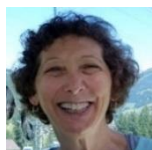


President’s Message

What a wonderful Winter Luncheon we had at the Country Club of Fairfax on December 7! The Club was beautifully decorated and provided a delicious lunch. Bonnie Hopler

and the Special Events Committee did a terrific job of organizing and orchestrating the entire event. Old friends reconnected during the social hour and several new members joined in on the festivities. (See pictures on page 6.) The luncheon was well attended and featured:

- Centerpiece prizes, door prizes, and Lucky Winter Winner prizes.
- Fifteen members of the Fairfax Jubilaires a cappella barbershop singing group regaling us with seasonal favorites.
- Recognition of Loren Brandman as our second annual Meritorious Service Award recipient for her invaluable leadership, wise counsel, and assistance to me.



Warm Winter Wishes and Tip-of-the-Hat to Ireland were the themes of this year’s event, which set the stage for Rod Dyke, Study/Travel Committee Chair, to announce there is still time to register for our “Jewels of Ireland” trip in May. (See article on page 4.)

Pat Herrity, Fairfax County Supervisor (Springfield), gave a brief talk about the County’s “Shape the Future of Aging Plan.” I’m glad to interject here that I recently participated in a joint interview with OLLI/GMU to provide input to the plan. The interview was conducted by Jacquie Woodruff, Legislative and Policy Supervisor of Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. She has been seeking community input through a series of town halls and focus groups. It was rewarding to learn that LLI/NOVA and OLLI/GMU are recognized for providing invaluable educational, cultural enrichment, and social engagement opportunities to Fairfax County seniors.

Your LLI/NOVA Board revisits our Covid-19 Policy on a regular basis, monitoring what other organizations/agencies are doing, and adjusting it to reflect current circumstances, CDC recommendations, and our demographic. LLI maintains its mandatory masking policy for classes and most other events, except when masking is impractical – such as with Foodies and Friends. We continue to highly recommend all event participants be vaccinated and boosted, although class coordinators are not required to check. Our website shows our latest Covid-19 policy ([here](#)).

Lastly, we continue to have a shortage of class coordinators. Please contact our Curriculum Committee Chair, Dick Robison, at the_robisons@verizon.net if you can volunteer in this important capacity. It is not difficult and you will receive training.

I wish safe and happy holidays to you and your loved ones.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President



Bring a Friend to a Class

You can help us in our effort to recruit more LLI members! Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives how much you enjoy our classes. The Board encourages you to invite non-members to one class in order to "try before buying" a membership. Let the class coordinator know if you have invited someone to an in-person class, to ensure that there is room available. If the class is on Zoom, you can share the Zoom link. Also, remember that monthly Forums are open to guests (following our Covid-19 policy of masking, of course), so pass along the date/place/Zoom link of any Forum to non-members whom you think might enjoy it.



Welcome to our newest members:

- Kathleen Kelly
- Phyllis Krochmal
- Dawn Li
- John Parks

Community Outreach



January brings a feeling of something new for many of us. But for some, cold and poverty are always present. The

Fairfax Hypothermia Prevention Program helps our most vulnerable residents by ensuring that no Fairfax County resident must sleep outside during the winter months.

FACETS' Fairfax food pantry offers safe places to sleep and nutritious meals for the homeless. It operates in partnership with Fairfax County and religious congregations that host this program for a week, between December 2022 and March 2023. You can help by supporting a congregation that hosts homeless guests and by contributing directly to [FACETS](#), at 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.



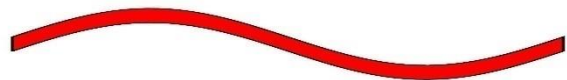
If you see a person who is homeless and at risk of hypothermia, without shelter for the night, you can call the Fairfax Police non-emergency number: 703-691-2131.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/Fairfax-Hypothermia-Program>.

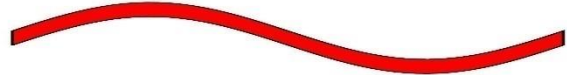
Two special events are being offered to LLI members by Encore Learning. No advance registration is required. Just connect to these free events online via Zoom:

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

- Monday, 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](#).
- Monday, January 23, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
"The Secret Behind Predicting the Next U.S. President"
Speaker: History Professor Allan Lichtman
Find more details [here](#).



When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.





Study Travel Program

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

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).

The early booking discount deadline has been extended. To take advantage of the **5% early booking discount**, travelers will need to register and make a \$250 non-refundable deposit **no later than December 23**.

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



Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

Bridge – Wednesday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. 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 – Thursday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., "Enemy Women" by Paulette Jiles (novel). 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 – Thursday, January 19, 9:30 a.m. – see article on next page for details.

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

Monday, February 6, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL, "The Woods" by Harlan Coben.

Monday, March 6, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL, "The 6:20 Man" by David Baldacci.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, January 20, 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 – Wednesday, January 25, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Mexican Train and Rummikub.

Players are encouraged to suggest/ bring a game they would like to play!

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

Thursday, January 19, 9:30 a.m.



**The Original
Pancake House**
7395 Lee Hwy,
Falls Church

Please join Foodies & Friends as we indulge in an old-fashioned breakfast, with plenty of coffee and conversation, at The Original Pancake House in Falls Church. The Original Pancake House was founded in Portland, OR in 1953 by Les Hight and Erma Hueneke. Customers enjoy the extensive menu of delicious, authentic, national, and ethnic pancake recipes. The Original Pancake House is a second- and third-generation family business, and takes great pride in maintaining the high standards that make its food so outstanding. There are over 100 Original Pancake House restaurants from coast to coast, which have won local and national acclaim. Recipes demand only the very finest ingredients, and batters and sauces are made fresh in each kitchen every day. Legendary chef James Beard was one of the Original Pancake House's biggest fans! Its signature dishes include the Apple Pancake, a single large pancake, smothered with sautéed apples and cinnamon sugar, and baked to perfection, creating a deliciously rich cinnamon sugar glaze. Another signature dish is the Dutch Baby, an air-filled delight, oven-baked to golden perfection, and served with lemon, whipped butter, and powdered sugar, to create a mouthwatering blend. The restaurant's extensive menu can be found here: <https://www.ophrestaurants.com>. While we are not requiring RSVPs for this event, you are encouraged to let Patti Volz (your host) know by January 16 if you plan to attend: pvolz63@gmail.com. The restaurant has a back room that Patti will try to reserve if we have enough interest.

Cultural Excursions

Save the dates for these springtime outings. Contact Carol Fagnani (see online member directory), Cultural Excursions Committee Chair, if you have questions.

- Wednesday, April 9: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden near Richmond. An historic property with more than 50 acres of spectacular gardens, dining, and shopping.



- Week of April 15 – 22: Garden Week in Virginia. Local tour of gardens and homes.
- Wednesday, May 3: Mount Cuba and Winterthur near Wilmington, Delaware. Stroll through native plant gardens and trails at Mount Cuba. Tour the mansion and gardens at Winterthur.



- Wednesday, May 31: Tudor Place and Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.



Winter Luncheon

December 7, 2022

Country Club of Fairfax

LLI members reconnected with friends and acquaintances.



The theme "Warm Winter Wishes" was a perfect sentiment for all the toys that were donated for Bethany House.



Anna Dixon served as emcee for an enjoyable program.



Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity gave a talk on the County's "Shape the Future of Aging Plan."

The Club served a wonderful lunch.



The Fairfax Jubil-Aires had us tapping our feet!



Many prizes were awarded in a drawing. In observation of next May's trip to Ireland, we celebrated the "Luck of the Irish" with prizes (restaurant gift certificates) to eight "Lucky Winter Winners."

