



News & Views

Volume 27—Number 2

February 2023

Wednesday, February 1 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)

4 Paws for Ability



KaLynn Clark, the Development Director at 4 Paws for Ability, will tell us about this inspiring organization that trains service dogs. 4 Paws was founded to help people with disabilities access the life-changing love, assistance, and support offered by a service dog. More than 1,500 service-dog teams have graduated from 4 Paws. In this Zoom forum, we will learn about the organization's mission, the types of service dogs trained, the training involved to be a service dog, and what service dogs actually do.

The organization specializes in placements with children, but also places dogs with military veterans and other adults. These dogs enrich the lives of people with disabilities by performing tasks to mitigate a variety of disabilities, including dementia, autism, and diabetes. The dogs assist veterans with mobility problems or hearing loss resulting from combat injuries. Multipurpose service dogs are specially trained for individuals with multiple disabilities who need

assistance in a wide variety of tasks. The organization has no eligibility requirements beyond a physician's statement that the person requesting a service dog has a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This way, 4 Paws has often satisfied the unmet needs of children who have been told by other placement agencies that they are "too disabled" or "not disabled enough" or that the agency cannot place service dogs with children.

From its humble beginnings in 1998 in a one-bedroom apartment in Batavia, OH, 4 Paws founder Karen Shirk has grown her organization to a purpose-built service dog training and placement campus in Xenia, OH, employing more than 75 people and hundreds of volunteers. Driven by its objective to help people with disabilities acquire task-trained service dogs, 4 Paws now has service dogs working in 49 out of 50 states and in multiple foreign countries. For more information visit their website at:

<https://www.4pawsforability.org>



4 Paws for Ability

*Enriching the lives of people
with disabilities by placing
life changing service dogs.*

President's Message



I hope that you had a joyous holiday season and are getting a good start on a Happy New Year!

With our current membership at 301, we need to continue our efforts to recoup membership losses caused by the pandemic. I urge our members to help our

Membership Outreach Committee by:

- Actively encouraging your friends, relatives and neighbors to join.
- Letting potential new members know that our \$110 annual membership fee is the best deal in town! Members have access to unlimited classes, Forums, special interest groups (SIGS), cultural excursions, visual and performing arts events, travel, and more.
- Bringing a friend to one of our classes or other events (notify class coordinator in advance) to try us out.
- Gifting someone a year's membership by signing them up on our home page.

I hope that you are participating in and enjoying classes in our winter session with its large variety of classes. Check out the calendar [here](#) to see our exciting schedule of cultural excursions, visual and performing arts events, and upcoming SIG meetings and Forums.

As you have seen in the email sent to all members, we are saddened at the passing of Mary Jablonski, an LLI member since 2009. She was a member of the Board from 2018 to 2021 and for over two years served as LLI newsletter editor. With editing assistance from Patricia Brennan, Mary was completely responsible for the newsletter production. She learned to use and to embrace the publishing technology at the time when our newsletter transitioned from hardcopy to an electronic online version in February 2019.

Other items of interest:

- Consider joining our Jewels of Ireland trip May 14 to May 28. Visit our website [here](#) or contact our Study/Travel Committee Chair, Rod Dyke, at rd2222@aol.com.
- In an effort to grow our membership, we are collaborating with AARP on several class offerings. Join in on these joint Zoom sessions:
 - "Parkinson's: An Insider's View" on Tuesday, January 24, at 1:30 p.m.
 - "Making Connections: Revisiting Favorites, and Exploring New Relationships in Art" on Tuesday, February 28, at 1:30 p.m.
- Our collaboration with Encore Learning enables our members to participate in a Monday, January 23, 3:00 p.m. Zoom session on "Predicting the Next President" (details [here](#)).
- Parking on the Annandale campus remains free through February 3.
- LLI/NOVA still requires masking for our in-person classes and encourages our members to be vaccinated and fully boosted.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President



Welcome to our newest members:

- Andrea Jensen
- Sherry Mull
- Rita Murtaugh
- Nancy Lee Roberts
- Judy Usherson

Community Outreach



Since 1968, Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) has coordinated volunteers to provide assistance to persons in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads areas through a food pantry, furniture program, rental assistance, and other emergency services. ACCA works with Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning to determine need.

ACCA is sponsoring a "Stuff the Bus" food collection on Saturday, February 11, at Giant Food, 7137 Columbia Pike, Annandale. You can check their website for most-needed items: <https://accacares.org/foodpantry/>

They also appreciate your sending a check to assist: ACCA, Inc., Suite 300, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Please write "food pantry" on the memo line.

Thanks for keeping the needs of our local neighbors in mind each month!

Betsy Pugin and Joyce Pomeroy



The following event is being offered to LLI members by Encore Learning. No advance registration is required. Just connect to this free event online via Zoom:

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

- 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](#).

Celebration of Life for Nan Peck



There will be a Celebration of Life for Nan Peck on Saturday, February 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Greenspring Senior Living Community, Hunters Crossing Conference Center, 7430 Spring Village Dr., Springfield.

Visit the website for RSVP, directions, donations, memories, photos, and obituary: <https://tellet.wixsite.com/nan-peck-celebration>

Winter Luncheon Pictures

The Winter Luncheon held at the Fairfax Country Club on December 7 was delightful! To see pictures from the event, click [here](#).



Study Travel Program – Registration and Classes

LLI/NOVA's May 2023 trip to Ireland continues to be 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](#).

Bonnie Hopley has arranged for two classes that will be of special interest to members and guests who plan to participate in the trip, but are open to all LLI members:

- [Jewels of Ireland](#) on February 8.
- [Irish Culture and Customs](#) on March 22.

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 – Thursday, January 26, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library
and **Thursday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center.**
All levels of players are welcome. For more information, click on [Bridge – LLI NOVA](#).
POC Bob Huley, roberthuley@cox.net

Favorite Books – Thursday, February 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL, "The Violin Conspiracy"
by Brendan Slocumb (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 – Tuesday, February 21, 12:30 p.m. – See article on next page for details.

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

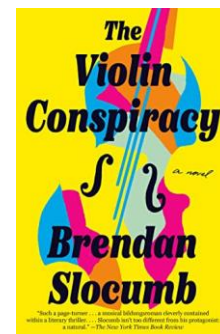
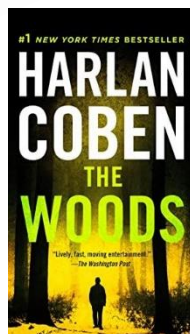
Photography – Friday, February 17, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at KPL

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., at KPL, Five Crowns.

All are welcome. We are looking for new suggestions of games to teach and learn. Having fun is our ultimate goal. 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

Tuesday, February 21, 12:30 p.m.



RT's Restaurant
3804 Mt. Vernon Ave.,
Alexandria

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Join Foodies & Friends as we celebrate Mardi Gras by dining on the distinctive Creole and Cajun cuisine of southern Louisiana. Experience two Foodies firsts – our first LLI Mardi Gras celebration and the group's first time dining at this popular restaurant.

For more than 30 years, RT's has focused on the specialties of New Orleans, providing a unique Northern Virginia dining experience, offering selections rarely found at other area restaurants. The extensive menu includes crawfish, shrimp, alligator, oysters, jambalaya, red beans & rice, crab, andouille gumbo, and étouffée, as well as a variety of other items prepared in the distinctive New Orleans style. Click [here](#) to see the menu.

RT's was chosen by Forbes Magazine from OpenTable's more than 127,000 restaurants as one of the top 50 Southern Restaurants in the country. Additionally, it has been included in Washingtonian Magazine's "Top 100 Restaurants" and recognized for its seafood in the nationally acclaimed Zagat Survey.

In honor of this special day, consider wearing your finest Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold with some beads and a mask. Separate checks will be provided, and there is ample parking on the street or in nearby parking lots, including one almost directly across the street near the pedestrian crosswalk. RSVP to Bev Portman at firse@juno.com no later than February 16 to reserve your seat for this festive celebration. Space is limited so please reserve early.

Cultural Excursions

Save the dates --- details will be available later -- for these springtime outings:

- 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, DE. 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.



Contact Carol Fagnani (see online member directory), Cultural Excursions Committee Chair, if you have questions.