



News & Views

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April 2023

Wednesday, April 5 -- 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.

North Korea: A Hidden Nation



Twenty-two million North Koreans live isolated and repressed lives under the restrictive regime of Kim Jong Il and Kim Jung Un, according to North Korea expert **Kongdan "Katy" Oh**. With her extensive experience and knowledge Dr. Oh promises to provide a unique insight into North Korea and a rare opportunity for an in-depth look at a country that is not very familiar to most of us. Throughout her professional life, she has briefed top policy makers of the United States, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom on the inner workings of North Korea.

Dr. Katy Oh is an independent scholar. She was formerly a Senior Asia Specialist at the Institute for Defense Analyses (1997-2021), a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution (1997-2016), and a member of the Political Science Department at the RAND Corporation (1987-1995). She has taught at the University of California, San Diego; George Washington University; and the University of Maryland Global Campus in Asia. She is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Directors of the U.S. Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, and the Board of Directors of the Korea Economic Institute of America, and she is the co-founder and former co-director of The Korea Club of Washington, D.C. She is fluent in Korean, Japanese, and Chinese. She has authored, co-authored, and edited eight books and numerous research monographs, articles, and book chapters. Dr. Oh's recent books include "North Korea in a Nutshell: A Contemporary Overview" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021) and her Korean-language memoir, published in June 2022.

This is indeed a special opportunity. Please join us for Dr. Oh's presentation.

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 traffic light, and follow the road to the church parking lot.

After-Forum Lunch

After the April Forum, join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at the Pho Duong Vietnamese Restaurant at 9412 Main Street in Fairfax (in the Pickett Shopping Center near Trader Joe's). Separate checks will be provided. Paul and Bonnie Hopley will host.

President's Message



Our membership now stands at 305. Please help us regain our pre-pandemic level of close to 400! A larger membership ensures continued robust programming and income from dues that will keep our annual fee at \$110 per year, arguably

the best deal in town! I urge you to reach out to your friends and neighbors and tout LLI/NOVA's benefits. Mention our 130 classes per year, Forums, social opportunities, excursions, foreign travel, and special interest groups. Bring friends to a class, so they can try us out (letting class coordinator know). You can also provide a one-year gift membership (see bottom of our homepage). I used this option for a friend, who has since renewed his membership.

We have enlarged our outreach by developing relationships over the years with several senior living facilities in our area. We continually offer a few classes at Greenspring Senior Living in Springfield and have held some at Spring Hill in Lorton. Last year, our Membership Outreach Committee approached The Virginian and enrolled them in our first group membership (10), although construction and parking issues have deterred us from holding classes there. We are exploring possibilities with Brightview Fair Oaks in Fairfax for this summer.

LLI's Nominating Committee is currently recruiting officers and Board members for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Terms for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are one-year with options for reappointment. The Board of Directors has 15 members with staggered three-year terms, and members are eligible for multiple terms. In addition, the immediate past president is invited to serve on the Board. Candidates recommended for election will be presented in the April newsletter, allowing 30 days' notice prior to their election by the general membership.

We have 12 committees that do much of the work of providing our services, and many of them are seeking new members. If you are interested in getting more involved with LLI/NOVA, please contact Anna Dixon at njoi2day@aol.com.

Finally, while we restart in-person Forums in April, we are glad that our winter Zoom Forums worked so well. Notably, we had an excellent electronic turnout for the March Forum with speaker Arch Campbell, former area movie critic and raconteur. He provided an entertaining hour of vignettes from 40 years on the air in Washington, D.C., displaying his first-hand acquaintance with local luminaries. If you missed it, you can access the recording at [Previous Forums – LLI NOVA](#); expand this year's list and scroll down to the March Forum link and password.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President

LLI Website Volunteer Needed



The Automation Committee seeks at least one volunteer to assist with maintaining the LLI website (llinova.org).

Experience with websites or general computer programming

would be ideal, but volunteers can get up to speed by learning from current members Bob Huley, Janice Viola, and Paul Massell. If interested, please contact Paul, committee chair, at paulm1729@gmail.com.



Welcome to our newest members:

- Ruby Harney
- Victoria Kahn

Community Outreach



Please bring food donations to our in-person Forum April 5. We are collecting for the food pantry at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, which currently distributes food two days a week to about 80 families. Families can come every other week.

Non-perishable food items are desired, such as cereal, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, canned tuna, canned fruit, canned beans, pasta, rice, ramen noodles, canned vegetables or soup/chili, Ritz crackers, and mac 'n cheese. If you would like to donate funds instead, mail a check to St. Matthews UMC, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003 and specify it is for the Joy Fund. Once again, thanks for continuing to help others in the community!

Betsy Pugin and Joyce Pomeroy (see online member directory for contact information)

Appreciation for LLI Scholarships

LLI members provided \$18,000 for scholarships to NOVA students for the 2023-24 academic year. Here are excerpts from NOVA Community College's letter of thanks to LLI members:

Thank you to all our friends at Lifetime Learning Institute of NOVA for supporting the NOVA Community College Educational Foundation with a gift of \$18,000 for scholarships. This donation is critical to helping NOVA students pursue their dreams of college and career success.

While other colleges have seen enrollment declines, NOVA has grown; this fall, our headcount enrollment is once again up almost 3%!

A bright future is still out of reach for far too many individuals in our region. This is why we need donor support now more than ever, so that we can continue building a strong foundation and providing hope to students who

feel they cannot either start or finish their educational journey. We are committed to helping them cross the graduation finish line, and we know that you are, too. Thank you for joining us in making their dreams a reality!

Your friendship and support mean more than you can know, and on behalf of our inspiring students, we share our gratitude for your generosity.

Anne M. Kress, Ph.D
President, NOVA

Kelly Persons
Executive Director NOVA Foundation



Encore Learning is offering the following event to LLI members. No advance registration is required. Just connect to this free event online via Zoom:

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

Monday, March 27, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

“Women’s Firsts and Futures: What Lived Experience Teaches”

Speakers: Two Virginia women leaders:

- Claire Gastañaga (Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia in 1993)
- Viola Baskerville (served in cabinet of former Governor Tim Kaine).

Find more details [here](#).

Study Travel Program



Travelers registered for LLI/NOVA’s “Jewels of Ireland” trip (exclusive to LLI/NOVA members and members’ friends and family) are looking forward to our May 13 departure.

In conjunction with our trip, all LLI members (whether participating in the trip or not) are invited to attend a March 22 class, Irish Culture and Customs. Additional information may be found [here](#).

The Study Travel Committee is busy planning future trips. A significant minority of respondents in last year's survey responded that they either preferred or were open to more high-end travel through LLI/NOVA. The Study Travel Committee decided to experiment with a wider spectrum of travel types with some being more high-end and some more on the economical side. As a result, 2024 may include two trips. 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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Tuesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, Thursday, April 13, and Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center.

All levels of player are welcome. For more information, click on [Bridge – LLI NOVA](#).

POC Bob Huley, roberthuley@cox.net

Favorite Books – Thursday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL, "The Personal Librarian" by Heather Terrell (aka Marie Benedict) and Victoria Christopher Murray (historical fiction).

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 – Monday, April 17, 12:00 p.m. – See article on next page for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, April 3, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL, "The Investigators" by W.E.B. Griffin.

Our May book will be "Five Total Strangers" by Natalie D. Richards.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, April 21, 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 – Tuesday, March 28 (Mille Bornes) and Tuesday, April 25 (Bunco). Both meetings from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL. All are welcome.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts – For \$15.00 (plus a \$4.00 service fee online; no fee at the box office) per seat, LLI members may purchase tickets for two remaining performances this season at George Mason University Center for the Arts. Additionally, you may attend a pre-performance discussion 45 minutes prior to the show. Information on purchasing tickets is available [here](#).

- Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m. – [Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with Bobby Floyd](#). An evening of jazz with Northern Virginia's own Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra. A signature event including some of the most remarkable jazz musicians in the metro region.
- Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m. – [Indigenous Enterprise](#). Share native heritage and culture through joyous, authentic dance and song. Comprised of champion dancers from Native American and Canadian tribes and Nations, "Indigenous Enterprise is rooted in tradition but also has hip-hop influences, discernible in footwork, bounce, and especially attitude," according to The New York Times.

Foodies & Friends

Monday, April 17, 12:00 p.m.

Royal Nepal Bistro

131 Maple Ave. W. Suite A, Vienna



You don't have to scale Mount Everest to indulge in the delicious and distinctive cuisine of Nepal. All you have to do is join Foodies & Friends at Royal Nepal, much closer to home in Vienna. Nepal has a diverse blend of cultures, ethnicities, and traditions. Royal Nepal Bistro says it "creates cuisine as beautiful and diverse as the heritage that inspires us," and invites everyone to experience authentic Nepalese food and attentive service. According to a Northern Virginia Magazine [review](#), the restaurant is run by a team of chefs representing different regions of Nepal. "Spices are ground in-house, which helps to create the

big flavors for which the team is known. From momos (a type of dumpling with origins in Tibet) filled with veggies, chicken, or lamb to the popular goat curry, the effort is evident."



There is ample parking in a lot behind the restaurant. The restaurant is accessible with minimal steps. Pique your interest by checking out the [website](#). Please respond to your host for this event, Patti Volz (pvolz63@gmail.com), by April 14. Hope to see you there!

Cultural Excursions

The Cultural Excursions Committee needs additional volunteers to expand the scope of our excursions. It takes less time than you think to plan these excursions.

- **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**

Wednesday, April 19, 10:15 a.m. – 6:15 p.m., \$106. The garden (in Richmond) will be bursting with blooming spring flowers. Enjoy a leisurely, guided garden tour. Fee includes coach, entrance, and tour.



- **Tudor Place and Dumbarton Oaks**

Wednesday, May 31, 11:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m., \$132. Experience the historic gardens of Tudor Place and Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown. Enjoy an elegant Victorian tea party in the 1867 Dower House and an informative house tour afterward. Then travel up the road to Dumbarton Oaks and explore the famous gardens. Fee includes coach, entrance, tea, and tour.

Details are available on LLI's website [here](#). Contact Cultural Excursions Committee Chair Carol Fagnani if you have questions. Her contact information is available in LLI's online member directory.

The following excursions are in the planning stage:

- June 2023: Geri Melcher Home and Studio near Fredericksburg. A tour guide will take us through the studio, home, and gardens. We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant.
- August 2023: National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. We will tour the museum and have lunch in its cafe.

Apply to be a Social Host for an International Student by April 23 deadline

What is the CCI Program?

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program, sponsored by the U. S. Department of State and administered by NOVA, provides participants from underserved countries and underrepresented groups with a one-year, non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. Imagine the great benefits of studying abroad -- learning a new language, a new culture, and meeting new people! To help the students get acquainted with their new communities and facilitate stronger cultural understanding, the **CCI Program is seeking Social Hosts from the NOVA community, including LLI members, to host 36 highly-motivated students.**



The CCI students are from diverse backgrounds and come from countries most of us have never visited: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine. After completing the program, participants return home with new skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their country.

What does a Social Host do?

Once a month for a year, a Social Host and family spend time with an assigned student to do fun and educational things, such as sharing stories, foods, and holidays; visiting museums; and going to movies. There is no financial obligation. Social Hosts report getting as much out of these interactions as the students!



Apply to be a Social Host

If you are interested in taking advantage of this fulfilling opportunity, please contact Anna Dixon at vpa@linoval.org no later than **April 23**.

Social Host Testimonials

"We had a life-changing experience as a host family. We watch the news so differently, now that we have hosted international students. In our family, we now have 'adopted children' who have a piece of our heart even as they live half a world away." - Kent

"My children are grown, and the students bring back great memories of dealing with young adults at such an exciting phase of their lives. Both students have taken to my wife, and we all look forward to our meetings, both on campus and in the community. I am planning to have them at my family's Christmas celebration, not only to have them experience an American celebration of this holiday but also to broaden the horizons of my children and grandchildren." - John