



# News & Views

Volume 27—Number 7

July 2023

**FORUMS: There will be no Forums in July or August. Next Forum is Wednesday, September 6.**



## President's Message

Our LLI/NOVA “Jewels of Ireland” excursion in mid-May was fantastic! Our tour group consisted of 11 LLI members and one guest.

The weather was beautiful, with some brief rain on only two occasions during our entire two weeks there! I had tracked the weather for more than a month before we left and it was constantly raining. Our driver/tour guide told us that it only rains twice a year in Ireland – from January to June and from July to December! So, we were indeed lucky!

Chairman Rod Dyck and members of our Study/Travel Committee did an incredible job of planning an itinerary that circumnavigated the island. We started in Dublin and then travelled south to Cork and Kinsale. We kissed the Blarney Stone on our way to Killarney and Dingle, and we saw castles, sheep, and stone walls everywhere we went. We hiked the Cliffs of Moher and took a catamaran around the Bay of Galway. In Northern Ireland, we visited Derry, Belfast, and the cliffs along the beautiful coast of the Irish Sea. In Belfast, we visited the Peace Wall which was erected during their “Troubles,” as well as the Titanic Museum. On our return to Dublin, we visited the Neolithic tomb sites at Newgrange and Knowth, dating from 3,200 BCE. In Dublin, group members experienced tours of the Guinness Brewery, the Jameson Whiskey Distillery, the Emigration Museum, and the Book of Kells at Trinity College.

If you are interested in future travel with LLI, contact Rod Dyck at [rd2222@aol.com](mailto:rd2222@aol.com).

Our Study/Travel Committee is already planning a June 2024 River Cruise along the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers. For more information, see the article on page 3 of this newsletter and our Study/Travel Program web page [here](#).

Derick Malis  
LLI/NOVA President

## Annual Membership Meeting

Prior to our Forum speaker's presentation on June 7, LLI conducted a brief annual membership meeting. With a quorum in place, Anna Dixon, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented our slate of officers and new board members for fiscal year 2024. LLI members voted to approve them.

Effective July 1, our Board will consist of the following members and officers:

- President: Derick Malis
- Vice President: Patricia Brennan
- Treasurer: Richard Sigman
- Secretary: Gina Trapp
- Past President: Anna Dixon
- Richard Ackerman
- Mary Alexander
- Cathy Becker
- Andy James Butler
- Debbie Cohen
- Steve Cohen
- Fritz Ernst
- Carol Fagnani
- Richard Martin
- Paul Massell
- Dick Robison

Following the election, the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, Fritz Ernst, gave a brief review of our financial situation and the fiscal year 2024 budget that was approved at our May Board meeting and published in the June newsletter. This budget projects a small positive net income for the year and supports our continuing events and activities while retaining our membership dues at \$110 per year. Since membership provides our primary source of income, retaining and recruiting new LLI members is critical.

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## June 7 Forum Speaker

At the close of our Annual Membership Meeting, we heard from our dynamic Forum speaker, Dr. Diane Mucci, provost of NOVA Community College, Annandale. We went away from that excellent talk feeling prouder than ever to be associated with NOVA! Not only is it the second largest community college in the nation, with 70,000 students at six campuses, but it is a top supplier of talent in the region, with more than 85% of graduates finding employment within six months of graduation. It has affordable tuition, and provides a food pantry and various services to students in need. Average class size is 24 students. It has set up strong transfer pathways to some four-year institutions, such as George Mason University.



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**NOVA** | Northern Virginia  
Community College

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To see Dr. Mucci's full slide presentation, click [here](#).

## Community Outreach

Many thanks to our generous members who brought food pantry donations to the June 7 Forum, the last one before summer. Our recipient food pantries are always so appreciative of these goods which their clients use to feed their families. Recent cutbacks in food stamp benefits have made the need greater.

Please continue supporting your favorite charity through the summer, and we will collect food at the September 6 Forum.

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

## The Early Bird Gets...

Summer class registration is open. Don't wait too long to register online for LLI classes, as some classes may get filled, and latecomers may find themselves waitlisted. Generally, registration closes at noon two days before the class meets.

Also, if you have registered for a course and later determine that you cannot attend, please email the class coordinator so that if there is a waitlist, someone else can use your spot.



Welcome to our newest members:

- Jo Doumbia
- Eileen Fulton
- Laurie Hayden
- Troy Mashburn
- Esteban Molfino
- Deborah Omori
- Jan Pry
- Lauren Zander

## Study/Travel Program



The Study/Travel Committee is delighted to orchestrate an exciting trip through the heart of Europe on Viking's Grand European Tour, embarking in Amsterdam on June 20, 2024, and debarking in Budapest on July 2. This 14-night trip will take us through four countries – The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and Hungary – along the Rhine, the Main, and the Danube rivers. See the [Study/Travel Program website](#) for full information.

These trips are very popular and fill up early, beginning with the highest cabin categories. Viking has extended its reduced \$25 registration deposit for those who register by June 30.

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

Here are a few pictures from our recent Jewels of Ireland tour. More will be posted online soon.



*Our LLI group at Donegal Castle in Ulster*



*Above: Rod and Joyce Dyck at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara*



*Left: Derick and Inta Malis disembarking from a cruise of Killary Harbour*

Encore Learning is offering the following free online events to LLI members. No advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to join these events.

- Monday, June 26, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Setting the Stage for Trump: Buchanan, Gingrich, and Limbaugh**  
 Speaker: David Heymsfeld  
 Details are available [here](#).
- Monday, July 10, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Learn Why Pickleball Is America's Fastest Growing Sport**  
 Speakers: Helen White and George Dwyer  
 Details are available [here](#).

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

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

**POC** = Point of Contact

**Bridge – Wednesday, July 12 at Mason District Governmental Center, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

All levels of player are welcome. For more information, click [here](#).

POC Bob Huley, [roberthuley@cox.net](mailto:roberthuley@cox.net)

**Favorite Books – There will be no meetings in July or August. Meetings will resume in September.** POC 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)

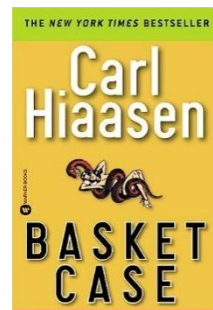
**Foodies & Friends – Friday, July 21, 12:30 p.m. –** See article on next page for details.

**Mystery Books – There will be no meetings in July or August.** Our September 4 book will be "Basket Case" by Carl Hiaasen. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

**Photography – Friday, July 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](mailto:hbm@hbmphoto.com)

**Tabletop Games – Tuesday, June 27 (Five Crowns), 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL.** All are welcome to come and have some fun learning and playing this entertaining card game!  
 POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)



## Foodies & Friends

Friday, July 21, 12:30 p.m.

### Ocean Paradise Restaurant & Bar

3903-I Fair Ridge Dr.  
Fairfax



Cast your net for a catch of fresh seafood! Join Foodies & Friends as we enjoy the freshest catch, at Ocean Paradise & Bar. Ocean Paradise is a family-owned restaurant that offers an innovative seafood concept, featuring fresh, high-quality seafood sourced directly from the coast. The chefs prepare dishes entirely from scratch, ensuring that every bite serves up “tremendous flavor and an abundance of fresh ingredients.” With over 25 years of experience, their chefs have created a menu that includes a mix of both original and



classic options inspired by seafood dishes around the world. As the restaurant describes itself: “We have a passion for creating culinary masterpieces – think ‘fine dining’ meets the comfort of Sunday

dinner with your family.” Ocean Paradise was awarded the 2022 and 2023 “Diners’ Choice” by Open Table. Check out their menu [here](#). Parking is easy and the restaurant is accessible. Individual checks will be provided. Oh, and for meat lovers, the restaurant has items to satisfy you, too.

RSVP to Patti Volz (pvolz63@gmail.com) by July 18. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Cultural Excursions

Additional information on excursions is available on LLI’s website [here](#). Members and their guests must register as they would for a class so we may get a headcount of attendees. Questions? Contact Carol Fagnani (see member directory).

### Gari Melchers Home & Studio and the Belmont Estate, Falmouth, VA

Thursday, June 29, 9:15 a.m. (for carpool);  
10:30 a.m. tour; 12:30 lunch



Belmont, home of American artist Gari Melchers (1860-1932), is a 27-acre estate featuring an historic home, art studio and galleries, tours, gardens, historic buildings, and several miles of walking trails.

Gari Melchers built a reputation as a painter of everyday life. There are more than 1,600 paintings on exhibit. His paintings are also on display in prominent museums worldwide. Click [here](#) for more about the life of this artist and his Falmouth home and studio, and [here](#) for more info about and to register for this outing.

Purchase your entry ticket (\$12) upon arrival. Lunch (optional) at your own cost at Amy’s Café in Fredericksburg after the home, studio, and estate visit. This is a meetup; you’re welcome to ride with Judy Robison or Carol Fagnani. The leader for this excursion is Judy (contact info is available in the online LLI directory).

**Middle Eastern Afternoon Tea at [Mazadar Restaurant](#)**

11725 Lee Hwy. #15, Fairfax  
Wednesday, July 19, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



This will be a delightfully different tea! In addition to tea, you will be served sandwiches, wraps, fruit, cheese, vegetables, dips, nuts,

and sweets. Consider this both lunch and dinner that day! Cost is \$57 per person (\$45 for the tea, plus tax and gratuity). For questions, contact Bonnie Hopler (see the online member directory). Pay Bonnie at the restaurant; separate checks will not be provided. **Register online [here](#) by July 12 at noon.**

**[National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, VA](#)**

Thursday, August 24, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of U.S. Marines. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine



Corps Base Quantico, the Museum's soaring design evokes the images of the flag raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to this 240,000-square-foot structure. World-class interpretive exhibits with innovative technology and unique artifacts surround visitors and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.

The museum is located just off I-95, 36 miles south of Washington, D.C. This is a meetup; members are encouraged to carpool. Admission to the museum is free. We will be given a guided tour. Lunch is on your own and available [onsite](#) at the Devil Dog Diner or Tun Tavern.

**Hike, wine tasting and lunch, Fauquier County**

Wednesday, September 27

Hike at [Sky Meadows State Park](#) led by

naturalist and LLI member Mary Alexander, followed by a



visit to a nearby winery, Delaplaine Cellars, for wine tasting and lunch. Join us for both or for just the hike or winery. Watch for details on this outing in next month's newsletter.

**Afternoon Tea at [Café Renaissance, Vienna](#)**  
Thursday, September 28, noon - 2:00 p.m.



In response to popular demand, we will return to Café Renaissance for a lovely fall tea. The cost is \$52 per person (\$40 for the tea, plus tax and gratuity). For questions, contact Bonnie Hopler (use online member

directory). Pay Bonnie at the restaurant; separate checks will not be provided.

**[Ben Lomond Historic Site, Prince William County](#)**

Thursday, October 12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Our visit will include a house tour and a docent-led tour of the grounds and outbuildings,



including the slave quarters. In addition, site historian Dave Born will present a talk about the enslaved workers' lives – their clothing, food, work, and more.