



# News & Views

Volume 27—Number 8

August 2023

**FORUMS: There is no Forum in August. See page 2 for preview of fall Forums.**

## President's Message

Our new Board members and officers officially began their duties on July 1. We welcomed the following:



- Patricia Brennan, new Board member and our new Vice President.
- Andy Butler, new Board member.
- Richard Sigman, already on the Board and our new Treasurer.

We give our great thanks to:

- Patti Volz, who served as our Vice President for the last five years, and has left the Board.
- Dina Cotlier, who did a wonderful job of promoting LLI membership through our Membership Outreach Committee, and has left the Board.
- Debbie Cohen, our Treasurer for the past year, and remains on the Board.

LLI would not be able to offer our broad range of services at our low annual membership fee without the generous contributions of time and energy from our Board members. Don't hesitate to thank them when you see them.

The LLI Cultural Excursion offerings are delightful! On June 28, 10 LLI/NOVA members went to Belmont, home and studio of the late artist Gari Melchers. Belmont is less than 50 miles away, in Falmouth, VA. We were able to view paintings by an incredibly talented professional who would be far better known had he led a more scandalous life or been a starving

artist in his early days! From a prosperous family, he travelled widely, lived in the Netherlands for 20 years, and had studios in Falmouth and New York City. Although known mainly as a portrait artist, he practiced many styles over his 50-plus-year career. Perhaps his most famous painting is the portrait of President Theodore Roosevelt that hangs in the Freer Gallery. Our thanks go to Carol Fagnani and Judy Robison for organizing this wonderful day, which included beautiful weather, a delicious lunch at a local eatery, a side trip for ice cream, and a walk around the grounds.

Other Cultural Excursions this summer include a Middle Eastern Tea in Fairfax on Wednesday, August 16 (click [here](#) for details), and a tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Thursday, August 24 (see article on page 4).

Finally, I wish everyone an enjoyable summer. My wife Inta and I plan to be touring the Baltic States as you read this. I will mention some of the highlights of visiting Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia in our September newsletter.

Derick Malis  
LLI/NOVA President



Welcome to our newest members:

- Glen Hewitt
- Trudy Marotta

## Fall Forums

We will again meet in person at the Little River United Church of Christ (LRUCC) across Route 236 from the entrance to NOVA Community College, Annandale. Here is a sneak preview:

**September 6:** We will hear the surprising and inspiring story of LRUCC and its journey to be an inclusive church and to buck the segregationist trend of the '50s and '60s.

**October 4:** Two panelists will discuss the law applicable to banning certain books in libraries, schools, and bookstores, and whether some should be restricted to readers based on age.

**November 1:** John Wasowicz, a Virginia attorney and the author of the Old Town mystery series, will talk about his writing style and how his knowledge of the DC area grounds his mystery books, such as "Slaters Lane," "Roaches Run," and "Daingerfield Island."

## Scholarship Fundraiser

This is the 24th year that LLI members will be providing funds for scholarships to deserving students of NOVA's Annandale Campus. This year's fundraiser is starting up now. In addition to the scholarships we normally provide for leadership and academic excellence, LLI will award a scholarship in memory of Nan Peck, a NOVA career faculty member and a committed and popular LLI presenter and Board member.

Many NOVA students need financial support. The student body is diverse and hard-working. Many students have jobs and families they support, and many are the first in their family to attend college. Last year we raised \$18,000, and we hope we can again elicit an enthusiastic and generous response from LLI members. Instructions on donating with credit card or check are on our LLI website; click [here](#).



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

- Monday, July 24, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
**The National Mall History Revealed by Author Ann Beltran's Characters**  
Speaker: Ann Beltran  
Details are available [here](#).
- Monday, August 7, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Neil Howe: The Fourth Turning is Here**  
Speaker: Neil Howe  
Details are available [here](#).

## Study/Travel Program

Pictures from LLI/NOVA's amazing May trip to Ireland are now posted on our website here: <https://lino.org/galleries/2023-galleries/> (click the "+" next to Study/Travel-2023-Jewels of Ireland).

After considering the overwhelmingly positive reviews of Viking tours, the Study/Travel Committee is delighted to offer an exciting trip through the heart of Europe on Viking's Grand European Tour, embarking in Amsterdam on June 20, 2024, and disembarking 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.

Contact Committee Chair Rod Dyck ([rd2222@aol.com](mailto: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 – Thursday, August 10 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, [lynne.smaldone@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.smaldone@gmail.com) (Note new email address.)

**Financial Discussion Group – Discontinued until new leader is found.**

Please consider volunteering. Contact Derick Malis, [derickmalis@gmail.com](mailto:derickmalis@gmail.com)

**Foodies & Friends – Tuesday, August 15, 12:00 p.m.** – See article below 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 – Fridays, July 21 and August 18, 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, July 25 (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

Tuesday, August 15, 12:00 p.m.

[La Fiamma Italian Kitchen](#)

6124 Franconia Rd., Alexandria



*Mangia bene, ridi spesso, ama molto* (eat well, laugh often, love much) is an Italian proverb embraced by La Fiamma. Their mission is to “give our all to ensure you leave La Fiamma with a memorable experience time and time again.” This is an inviting and friendly atmosphere for all, whether it be couples, friends, or folks just looking to meet friendly new faces. The restaurant uses the highest quality foods and “works with vendors to ensure all products that are as fresh as can be and from local vendors whenever possible.” Their pizza chefs prepare fresh dough, sauces, and all the toppings for each handmade pizza daily.

La Fiamma has plenty of free parking and separate checks will be provided. The restaurant is completely accessible. Our hosts for this Foodies & Friends lunch are Ann and Bob Gish. RSVP to Ann Gisch ([ann.gisch@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gisch@gmail.com)) by August 13. Hope to see you there!



## Cultural Excursions

Detailed 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).

### [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 on 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 by docents who will give us an overview and point out highlights of the museum. Lunch is on your own and available [onsite](#) at the Devil Dog Diner or Tun Tavern. While we're in the lunchroom, there will be a display of Vietnam War weapons and items, and a volunteer will present a program about these at 12:30 p.m.

**Save these excursion dates.** Details are available [online](#) and will be published in future newsletters:

- Wednesday, September 27: **Hike, wine tasting, and lunch - Fauquier County**  
Hike at [Sky Meadows State Park](#) led by naturalist and LLI member Mary Alexander, followed by a visit to a nearby winery, Delaplane Cellars, for wine tasting and lunch. Join us for both or for just the hike or winery.
- Thursday, September 28: **Afternoon Tea at [Café Renaissance](#) - Vienna**  
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). The tea will be from noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12: **[Ben Lomond Historic Site](#) - Prince William County**  
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. (Please note: This historic site is normally closed to the public Tuesday through Thursday; this is a special event for LLI members and friends.)
- Saturday, October 14: **Hike along the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal - D.C.**  
Participate in Locktoberfest 2023 with a six-mile guided group walk organized by LLI member Steve Brown. We'll begin our scenic and historic stroll at the boathouse at Fletcher's Cove and walk along the C&O Canal towpath toward Georgetown. We'll eat lunch in Georgetown, then return to Fletcher's Cove.