



News & Views

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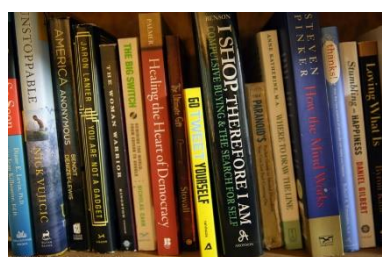
Wednesday, October 4 -- LLI/NOVA FORUM

Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Tnpk, Annandale Socializing starts 9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m. Brief talk by 2000 LLI/NOVA Scholarship recipient Makan Shirafkan, now a lawyer

10:00 a.m. Forum Presentation

Freedom to Read



Banned Books Week (the first week of October 2023) is an annual awareness campaign promoted by the American Library Association and Amnesty International. It celebrates the freedom to read, draws attention to banned and challenged books, and highlights persecuted individuals. Our Forum will feature two panelists who will discuss the laws and policies applicable to banning books in libraries (public and in school) and in bookstores, and whether certain books should be

restricted to readers based on age, or removed from library shelves entirely.

Book banning policies and legislation have been or are being discussed and/or initiated in many states including Virginia. The Warren County Library Board in Front Royal held two very contentious meetings over demands that certain books be removed from its shelves. To see an article on this, click [here](#). Pending review, the county's Board of Supervisors cut the library's budget by 75 percent over this issue.

Our two Forum panelists are:

- Matthew Callahan, a Senior Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Virginia since September 2021. He focuses on civil rights impact litigation including First Amendment and education issues. Before joining the ACLU, Matt worked at Muslim Advocates, a national civil rights non-profit combating discrimination against the Muslim community, and at the law firm Schiff Hardin LLP. He started his legal career as a fellow at the ACLU of Northern California. Matt has an A.B. cum laude from Harvard University and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

- Lisa Varga, the Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association (VLA). She received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University and worked in special and public libraries before joining VLA in 2011. Lisa is a member of the American Library Association (ALA) Policy Corps, the ALA Policy Corps Intellectual Freedom Cadre, the Freedom to Read Foundation's Finance Committee, and the Virginia Society of Association Executives. She has presented locally and nationally on a variety of library and association topics, and currently serves on the Virginia Beach Public Library Board.

Please join us for this most interesting and timely discussion.

After-Forum Lunch — Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at Silverado Restaurant, 7052 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Paul Hopler will host.

President's Message



Our LLI community is deeply saddened at the recent passing of two of our LLI leaders:

- Kathryn O'Toole, a former LLI/NOVA Vice-President and member of our Automation Committee and involved with our website start-up.
- Dick Robison was a member of the current Board and the dedicated Chair of our Curriculum Committee with extraordinary computer expertise to bring us into online operations.

Both will be sorely missed. More information is contained in the in memoriams on page 6.

Dick Robison's passing leaves LLI with big shoes to fill. He was largely responsible for getting each semester's class proposals developed into class offerings in an online catalog and other reports onto our website. He and his wife, Judy, served as class coordinators for a number of classes. We are now in particular need of additional coordinators. It's a great way to meet other LLI members and to learn some of the inner workings of LLI. To volunteer or to find out what is involved, contact Paul Hopley at phopley4@gmail.com.

I want to give a shout-out to LLI member JoAnn Ackerman, who has stepped up to coordinate this year's Winter Luncheon. It is to be held Wednesday, December 6, at 11:00 at the Fairfax Country Club. JoAnn succeeds Bonnie Hopley (and her committee) who have done a tremendous job in coordinating this main social event for our members in recent years. Please come and bring a guest! Information about registering online will be provided later.

October 14 is the deadline for donations to the 2023 LLI/NOVA Scholarship Program fundraiser. You can make a big difference in the lives of highly motivated NOVA students who struggle to pay for college. A big "THANK YOU"

to those who have already contributed. See the article on page 3 for touching testimonials from scholarship recipients.

At our October 4 Forum at LRUC, hear a short pre-Forum talk at 9:45 a.m. from one of our initial LLI/NOVA scholarship recipients, who received the Leadership Award in 2000 (for \$1,000). A child of an immigrant family, Makan Shirafkan has an incredible story, including wrongful imprisonment, before he attended NOVA and went on to law school and became the founder of the Justice for All Political Action Committee. He was named a Top 100 by National Trial Lawyers, among many other credentials (details [here](#)).

Volunteerism is what allows LLI/NOVA to function and keeps our membership dues low – at \$110 per year. All functions are run and led by volunteers, except for a part-time administrator and some contract tech support. In contrast, most other LLI's in Virginia hire multiple, full-time staff, and consequently, their annual dues can exceed \$400 annually. Please consider volunteering. We have numerous opportunities.

I'd particularly like to encourage joining our Membership Outreach Committee to help bring in new members (and the accompanying revenue through dues). It's fun and doesn't take a lot of time. For information about all of our committees, click [here](#) and then on the "Committees" tab. You can contact our Membership Outreach Chair, Mary Alexander, at mary@mkalexander.com.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President



Welcome to our newest members:

- Margaret Johnson
- Liddell McLeod

Scholarship Recipients Thank Us



The impact of an LLI/NOVA scholarship on our recipients can be tremendous – for both financial and moral support. Here are excerpts from some of their letters to us:

- ❖ “I want to express my gratitude for being awarded the LLI Loren Goodrich Academic Scholarship...After graduating, I plan to transfer to a four-year university, enter medical school, and become a doctor who loves helping people. I am very happy to see wonderful people like you...
- ❖ “I am excited to learn that I was selected as a recipient of an LLI Leadership Scholarship. Thank you for your generous support, which inspires me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I can help

students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

- ❖ “I am so thankful to for this scholarship, so I can reach my goal of being a professional dental hygienist.”
- ❖ “I am sincerely honored to have been selected for an LLI Academic Scholarship. I expect to obtain an Associate of Science degree in Geospatial Specialization, allowing me to continue my academic path and pursue my dream career.”
- ❖ “I am immensely grateful... This is a big relief to me and helps reduce a great financial burden from my head. I promise to make good use of this money as I strive to continue my education at NOVA.”

Please make your donation by October 14 for the 2023 scholarships by clicking [here](#).

Community Outreach

Good news! Many of you have asked if we can assist the “**Nighthawk Nest - NOVA's Food and Personal Care Pantry**,” which provides easy, on-campus access to free food and personal care products. We have done so in the past, before it was closed during the pandemic. Now, it is functioning again and would welcome our donations at the Forum on October 4.

Most needed are ready-to-eat meals (not refrigerated); microwavable food, just-add-water meals, soups, oatmeal, granola and protein bars, snacks, and individual juices and waters. Also needed are



non-food items such as sanitary napkins, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, baby diapers and wipes. (Many students have families.)

Thank you for the large collection of items for FACETS in September (delivered by Bonnie and Paul Hople). Let's keep it up for October!

POC: Betsy Pugin (see LLI member directory)

Publicity

Do you enjoy LLI and want to promote it to others? Our Publicity Subcommittee could use your help! Although we recruit many new LLI members through word-of-mouth, potential members also learn of LLI through our press ads, event notices and articles printed in such publications as Fairfax County's The Golden Gazette, Supervisor Walkinshaw's The Braddock Beacon, and HOA newsletters.



These vital postings are made by volunteers with our Membership Outreach Committee. Each month we have a number of specific press-related tasks and would welcome LLI volunteers to take on one or two of them; and you won't even have to leave your home.

Would you help? Please contact Mary Alexander at 202-257-5377 or mary@mkalexander.com.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact



Bridge – Thursday, October 12, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center and Thursday, October 19, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library

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

POC Bob Huley, roberthuley@cox.net

Favorite Books – Date change: Tuesday, October 24, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

"There There" by Tommy Orange (fiction). POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Financial Discussion Group – Discontinued until new leader is found.

Please consider volunteering. Contact Derick Malis, derickmalis@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Thursday, October 27, 1:00 p.m. – See article below for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, October 2, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL,

"The Last to Vanish" by Megan Miranda. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – No meeting in October

Tabletop Games – Tuesday, September 26 (Mexican Train) and Tuesday, October 24 (game TBD). Both meetings from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

All are welcome! POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends



Friday, October 27, 1:00 pm

Piero's Corner

Franklin Farm Center, 13340 Franklin Farm Rd., Herndon

Established in 2003, Piero's Corner is a locally owned, neighborhood Italian restaurant. Join Foodies & Friends to relax in an authentic, casual setting with a friendly and knowledgeable staff ready to please. The kitchen is led by Chef

Gian Piero Mazzi, native of the famous Cinque Terre, a string of centuries-old seaside villages on the Italian Riviera Coast. Piero's specializes in freshly-made pasta, seafood cooked to perfection, and creative dishes, making this unique restaurant in Franklin Farm worth a visit! It offers an extensive and unique gluten-free menu of exquisite appetizers and delicious meals: see menu [here](#). RSVP to host Loren Brandman lorenbrandman@gmail.com by October 25. Restaurant is accessible. Plentiful parking. Separate checks. Hope to see you there!



Winter Luncheon

Wednesday, December 6, 11:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendar to attend LLI/NOVA's Winter Luncheon at the Country Club of Fairfax! Details will be included in next month's newsletter.



Point of contact is JoAnn Ackerman <joannackerman22@gmail.com>

Cultural Excursions

Detailed information on excursions is available on LLI's website [here](#). All attendees **must register** as they would for a class so we may get a headcount of attendees. Questions? Contact Carol Fagnani (see member directory).

Hiking, 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, [Delaplane Cellars](#), for wine tasting and a bring-your-own lunch. \$10 entrance fee payable at the park. Meet in parking lot in front of Mount Bleak House, hike 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., wine tasting 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Register for the Sky Meadows State Park hike [here](#), and for the Delaplane Cellars Winery [here](#). Join us for both or for just the hike or the winery.

Afternoon Tea at [Café Renaissance](#), 163 Glyndon St. SE, Vienna

Thursday, September 28, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.



Enjoy a classic afternoon tea at Café Renaissance, with sandwiches, scones, sweets, and delicious tea selections. The cost is \$52 per person (\$40 for the tea, plus tax and gratuity). Pay at the tea either by providing cash or

check (made payable to Bonnie Hopley) and placed in an envelope with your name on it. Free parking. Register for this event [here](#).

[Ben Lomond Historic Site](#)

Prince William County

Thursday, October 12, 1:30 to 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. Site historian Dave Born will describe 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.) Register [here](#). POC is Carol Fagnani.

Hike: Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal - D.C. Saturday, October 14

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 at 11:30 a.m. and walk along the C&O Canal towpath toward Georgetown. We'll eat lunch in Georgetown, then return to Fletcher's Cove. This outing is limited to 24 participants. Register [here](#).

Study/Travel Program

We hope you are considering signing up for LLI's trip on Viking's Grand European Tour, which embarks in Amsterdam on June 20, 2024, and disembarks in Budapest on July 2, taking 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 or 703-328-1660) with any questions or comments.

In Memoriam



Kathryn O'Toole



LLI member Kathryn O'Toole passed peacefully on August 18, after a brief illness. Kathryn originally hailed from northern California and graduated from the University of California. Among the various jobs in her career, she cherished working for the U.S. National Park Service most. She enjoyed theater, subscribing to several theater groups.

Kathryn joined LLI in 2011 and was a member of the LLI Board, serving as Vice President, and as a member of the Automation Committee. She also served on LLI's early trip committee, helping to plan and lead day and overnight trips. She was an avid member of the Poetry Writing and "Richard Risk's Poetry and You" classes, becoming the poetry reading coordinator, where she introduced new poets to members. Kathryn had a fun spirit, dressing up in Halloween fare for the October poetry meetings and hosting the annual Valentine's Day/Spring Fling poetry event, a program filled with poetry readings, music, and some very good jokes. She loved reading and discussing books in LLI's book group.

At her request, her ashes, and those of her beloved cat Bear, will be scattered in the Shenandoah National Park. There will be no public service.

Dick Robison



LLI member Richard (Dick) Robison passed away on August 30. Dick joined LLI in 2013 along with his wife, Judy, and became Chairman of the Curriculum Committee in 2019. As Chair, he completely modernized the curriculum process, creating a system to allow the catalog and related documents to be available to members online. This eliminated the costs of creating, printing, and mailing catalogs to all the members. In addition, he served as class coordinator for many of these classes, and attended even more. He became a member of the LLI Board of Directors in 2020. Dick loved to travel and took many exciting trips, including to Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, the Equatorial Amazon, Machu Picchu, and the Brazilian Pantanal.

Dick received a master's degree in business administration (management) and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He retired from the Air Force in 2001 after 26 years as an officer, including tours as a C-130 test pilot, a hurricane hunter, a squadron commander, and an airlift control element commander in Mogadishu, Somalia (United Nations). He also had two assignments in Germany, as well as joint assignments with the Army and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. After retiring from the Air Force, Dick directed imagery analysis and training support for the intelligence community as a director at EOIR Technologies, Inc. He retired from that position in 2013.

Dick made immeasurable contributions to LLI and will be sorely missed. As one LLI member stated, "...I thoroughly enjoyed working with him; respected and admired him greatly; truly a gem of an individual; the world was a better place with him in it."

A memorial service will be held for Dick at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (click [here](#)) on Saturday, October 14, at 3 p.m. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.