



News & Views

Volume 27—Number 12

December 2023



Winter Luncheon

Wednesday, December 6, 11:00 a.m.
Country Club of Fairfax

November 28 is the NEW deadline to purchase tickets (register [here](#))

11:00 a.m. Reception/cash bar; local guitar duet, *The Recall*, playing folk, blues, and country rock.

12:00 noon: Enjoy camaraderie with fellow LLI members over sit-down lunch (choice of entree).

We'll collect new, unwrapped toys for children under the care of [Bethany House](#).

Questions? Contact JoAnn Ackerman, joannackerman22@gmail.com.

Upcoming Forums

There will be no Forum in December, but here is a sneak peek at the next two forums which will be on **Zoom** (☔ avoiding winter driving):

January 3: Our speaker is Michael S. Bell, PhD (Col., USA, Ret.), the Executive Director of the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. He will lead a virtual tour of this museum, which tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand, and be inspired by, the price of freedom.

February 7: Our speaker is Michael Mehta Webster, former Executive Director of the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) and professor of practice in the Department of Environmental Studies at New York University. His topic will be "The Rescue Effect: The Key to Saving Life on Earth." As climate change continues to intensify, the outlook for life on earth seems bleak. Yet hope for the future can be found in "the rescue effect," which is nature's innate ability to help organisms persist in hard times.



Welcome to our newest members:

- Carol Epperly
- Frank Krempa
- Mary Williamson

Love Basketball?



Imagine attending spirited, live college basketball games **NEARBY** and **FREE!** You can do that, starting with Nighthawks' home games at

Ernst Gymnasium, NOVA Annandale campus on December 6 (men's at 7:00 p.m.), December 16 (women's at 11:00 a.m., men's at 1:00 p.m.). Click [here](#) for season schedule.

President's Message



I hope you are getting out to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and colors, in between LLI classes, of course!

Recently, Inta and I spent a long weekend near Lexington, KY, visiting our daughter and son-in-law. We drove to the Red River

Gorge of the Daniel Boone National Forest and watched our kids do some rock climbing prior to our hike in the woods amid stellar weather.

Leaving the gorge, we noted the air pressure in a rear tire steadily decreasing! With no gas station for miles, we changed to the “donut” tire and carefully drove the 60 miles back to Lexington and had the tire repaired. Then we

enjoyed Transylvania University's PumpkinMania -- an annual celebration of pumpkin carving and festivities. Also, we watched our daughter lead a group of 30 yoga students in cat yoga—15 kittens wandering among yoga practitioners. What a wonderful weekend, well worth the 1,000-mile roundtrip drive.



LLI/NOVA is working on recruiting a Curriculum Committee Chair, one of the most important roles at LLI. Dick Robison, who sadly passed away in August, had been the long-time Chair and handled many of the functions himself, leaving huge shoes to fill. I am restructuring the position to be a more manageable *coordinating* position. We now have strong editing and technical components in place. Paul Hopley has recruited and strengthened our corps of class coordinators and is working on classroom assigners. However, we need a person with good organizational skills to coordinate these curriculum components to ensure that our class offerings continue to be of high quality and interest to our membership. If you would like more information about what would be entailed

in assuming this critical position, contact me at derickmalis@gmail.com or at 571-643-5321.

Finally, I want to highlight some upcoming LLI events:

- “20th Century Works...But is it Art?” The third session of this class will be in-person at the National Gallery of Art on Wednesday, November 22, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. Register [here](#) by noon November 20.
- LLI's only annual social gathering is our Winter Luncheon, on Wednesday, December 6, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Fairfax Country Club. Register [here](#) now and join the fun!
- “A Mariachi Christmas: Mariachi Herencia de Mexico” performance at GMU Center for the Arts on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m. See page 4 for more information on purchasing deeply discounted tickets for this and other performances.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President

Thanks to our Scholarship Donors!



Many thanks to LLI members who helped make this a record-breaking year for donations to the NOVA Scholarship Fund! LLI provided \$32,000 to the NOVA Educational

Foundation to fund the following scholarships:

- Three LLI Academic
- Three LLI Leadership
- One LLI Lorin Goodrich Academic
- One LLI Knox Singleton Leadership
- Four Nan Peck Memorial

The individual scholarships range from \$2,300 to \$3,300.

Over the next few months, the Foundation will select students who meet the academic and financial criteria for these awards, which will be applied to the 2024-2025 academic year. These scholarships will make a big difference in their lives. Thank you for your generosity!

Cultural Excursions

The new year is almost here and the Cultural Excursions Committee has some exciting trips planned. In addition to our trips, member Bonnie Hopler has some fun afternoon teas arranged. Contact Carol Fagnani (contact info in member directory online) if you have ideas of places to visit or if you're interested in learning more about our committee.

February 20: Frederick Douglass Home & National Portrait Gallery



Celebrate Black History Month with a focus on renowned statesman and social reformer Frederick Douglass. Take a guided tour of the Douglass home in Anacostia (a National Park site), see items from his public and private life of the late 1800s, and understand the significance of the work of this great man.

Next, journey to the National Portrait Gallery to see the Frederick Douglass portraits exhibit. Lunch is on your own in the Portrait Gallery courtyard (purchase from the café or bring your own). There will be some additional time to see more exhibits at the Portrait Gallery. Note that there are very steep steps to reach the Douglass Home, which is situated on a hilltop. The second floor of the home is accessible only by stairs.

Please call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173 for accommodations requests and inquiries. **The bus departs Green Spring Gardens** at 9:30 a.m. and returns at 3:30 p.m. This is a Fairfax County Park Authority trip, which LLI members may join. Registration and payment is made directly to Fairfax County through [this link](#). The cost of this trip is \$89. Please also register with LLI through [this link](#),

so trip leader Ellen Wallace can get a count of attendees.

The tentative cultural excursions schedule for the rest of the 2024 calendar year is as follows:

- March: 61st Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show, Alexandria
- March: O Street Museum in the Mansion, D.C.
- April: Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria
- May: Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, MD
- May: Glenstone Museum, Potomac, MD
- June: National Museum of Women in the Arts, D.C.
- July: National Cryptologic Museum, Annapolis Junction, MD
- August: National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico
- September: Library of Congress and Supreme Court, D.C.
- October: Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, D.C.
- November: Planet Word, D.C.



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

- Monday, December 4, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Destroyer of Worlds: The Rise and Fall of Robert Oppenheimer
Speaker: Dan Sherman
Details are available [here](#).
- Monday, December 11, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Robert E. Lee and Me – a Reckoning with American History
Speaker: Dr. Ty Seidule
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, November 22, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, and Tuesday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center.

All levels of player are welcome. For more info, click [here](#). POC Bob Huley, roberthuley@cox.net

Favorite Books –No meeting in December. 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 – Monday, December 18, 12:00 p.m. See article on page 5 for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, December 4, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

“Service of All the Dead” by Colin Dexter. The book for our January 8 meeting will be “The Maid” by Nita Prose. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, December 15, 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. POC Buck Myers, hbm@hbmphoto.com

Tabletop Games – Tuesday, November 28 (Swoop), 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

Due to popular demand, the group will play Swoop. This game allows many to participate, and the winner cannot be predicted! POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts

Wednesday, November 22, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the National Gallery of Art.

20th Century Works ... Amusing, But Is It Art? National Gallery of Art docent Anna Dixon will provide an in-person gallery walk-through exploring how and why rules of painting and sculpture changed radically throughout the 20th century. Register [here](#) (by noon November 20) for this in-person event. We will meet in the East Building (4th St. & Constitution Ave. NW) lobby at 10:00 a.m. and begin the tour at 10:15 a.m. Attendees can have a light meal in the main cafeteria after the tour. **Participants are encouraged to carpool or take the Metro to this in-person session.**

Discounted Tickets at GMU Center for the Arts – For \$15.00 (plus a \$4.00 service fee) per seat, LLI members may purchase tickets for any available seat at 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.) To find details about the shows and purchase tickets online, click on the LLI VPA SIG webpage [here](#). These are the shows and dates for which this discount applies (links are to GMU’s website):

- [A Mariachi Christmas: Mariachi Herencia de México](#) – December 10, 3:00 p.m.
- [Hamid Rahmainian's Song of the North](#) – January 27, 4:00 p.m.
- [Virginia Opera: Sanctuary Road](#) – February 4, 2:00 p.m.
- [A.I.M by Kyle Abraham](#) – February 17, 8:00 p.m.
- [Jubilee/Mnozil Brass](#) – February 25, 3:00 p.m.
- [Small Island Big Song](#) – April 20, 8:00 p.m.



Foodies & Friends

Monday, December 18, 12:00 p.m.
Sichuan Legend, 9992 Main St., Fairfax

Join Foodies & Friends as we dine at a recently opened restaurant in a long-established restaurant location. Located where a Chinese hot pot restaurant operated for many years, Sichuan Legend opened under new management and a new name this June. The new owners refurbished the interior and greatly expanded the menu to include a wide variety of entrees, while retaining the option to order a custom hot pot if a diner chooses. The manager's mother heads food preparation in the kitchen, and with a Chinese wait staff, this restaurant feels like a family-owned business focused on delicious food and great service with a friendly smile.

Although the name of the restaurant uses "Sichuan," the newer English spelling for this region of southwest China, the menu utilizes the more traditional spelling "Szechuan" to describe the cuisine. Szechuan, one of the eight major cuisines of China, is characterized by a variety of flavors, such as bold, sour, or sweet, and by wide use of stir-frying. For diners who prefer selections on the milder side, the menu offers a wide variety of items from which to choose. You can check out the menu here: <https://www.sichuanlegendva.com/>. Separate checks will be provided. There is ample parking and the location is fully accessible. Please RSVP to Bev Portman at firse@juno.com or Suzanne Pastura at hookedonwool@cox.net by Thursday, December 14. We hope you will join us to enjoy a new, authentically Chinese dining experience.

Study/Travel Program

LLI/NOVA's Viking Grand European Tour is approaching fast! Travelers are looking forward to this exciting trip through the heart of Europe, cruising along picturesque waterways and experiencing the rich history, culture, and beauty of the continent. With Viking's world-class service, meticulously designed itineraries, and exquisite cuisine, you can relax and enjoy this iconic trip that embarks from Amsterdam on June 20 and disembarks in Budapest on July 4, 2024. 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 Rod Dyck (rd2222@aol.com or 703-328-1660) with any questions or comments. LLI/NOVA's Study/Travel Committee will meet soon to plan subsequent travel.



The Study/Travel Committee needs someone to chair its Study Subcommittee. The Study Subcommittee focuses on the study part of the program, which includes travel destination classes prior to travel. If you are interested or would like to learn more about the Study Subcommittee, please contact Committee Chair Rod Dyck.



 **Happy** 
Thanksgiving

LLI Newsletter Committee
Chair: Cathy Becker, cz.becker@verizon.net
Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan