



News & Views

Volume 28—Number 1

January 2024

Wednesday, January 3

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

Social Zoom: 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. **Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.**

(Click the link in the upcoming email announcement)

Virtual Tour of the National World War II Museum, New Orleans



Speaker: Col. Michael Bell, USA (Ret.), Ph.D.

Executive Director of the Jenny Craig Institute for Study of War & Democracy
National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA

Col. Michael S. Bell will lead us on a virtual tour of the **National World War II Museum** in New Orleans. Offering a compelling blend of sweeping narrative and poignant personal details, this museum features immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts

and oral histories. These elements take us inside the story of the war that changed the world. Major exhibits include a Liberation Pavilion highlighting hope in the war's aftermath, the Arsenal of Democracy, and galleries

dedicated to the European and Pacific Theaters. Beyond the galleries, the Museum's online collections, virtual field trips, webinars, educational travel programs, and renowned International Conference on World War II offer patrons various ways to connect to history and honor the generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.



Commissioned as an Armor Officer following graduation from West Point, Col. Bell is a combat veteran, historian, and strategist who has served at U.S. Central Command, the Joint Staff, the West Point faculty, and the National Defense University. He also served on assignments to the Office of the Secretary of State and to the National Security Council as Senior Director for Middle East Affairs and Special Assistant to the President. He retired in 2022 to join the National World War II Museum.

Col. Bell holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, where he was a distinguished graduate of the National War College. Co-author of the *National Military Strategy of the US Armed Forces* and author of the *National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism*, his monograph on the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, published by the Strategic Studies Institute. His book on John J. Pershing is currently under review by the Army University Press. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award, Joint Staff Badge, and Combat Action Badge.

President's Message



On behalf of the Board of LLI/NOVA, I wish all members a joyous holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in classes in the new year. Please note that the Spring 2024 catalog and registration are currently available online.

With pleasure I want to recognize two long-time, very deserving LLI members who were awarded LLI's 2023 Meritorious Service Award at the Winter Luncheon on December 6:

- ❖ Anna Dixon — her contributions include:
 - Serving as president during the pandemic
 - Leading our pivot to Zoom classes and forums
 - Aiding the process of getting LLI's registration process on-line
 - Negotiating contracts with NOVA
 - Creating the Visual and Performing Arts Program providing members with discounts to cultural events
 - Assuming leadership of essential projects
- ❖ Dick Robison — his contributions include:
 - Chairing the Curriculum Committee
 - Balancing Zoom and live classes during the pandemic
 - Serving on the Board of Directors
 - Providing technical support for innumerable venues
 - Offering calm, understated, sagacious advice when asked or required

Dick passed away in August, and his award was accepted by his wife, Judy.

Reports about the Winter Luncheon were delightfully positive. The Fairfax Country Club was beautifully decorated and served delicious food. I was very sorry that Inta and I were unable to attend due to our participation in a previously scheduled week-long yoga retreat

that our daughter led in Belize. Many LLI colleagues had convinced me they could carry on without me, and I understand they did so splendidly!

Happy New Year to all!

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President



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

- Monday, January 29, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
The New Dominion: The 20th Century Elections that Shaped Modern Virginia
Speaker: John Milliken
Details are available [here](#).

Gen. Petraeus at NOVA/Alexandria

Thursday, January 25, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

NOVA **Alexandria** campus in the Dr. Barbara A. Wyles Auditorium (Room AA-196)



The NOVA Foundation will host a book discussion with retired Gen. David Petraeus about his newly published book entitled "Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine."

Considered one of the leading battlefield commanders and military strategists of our time, Gen. Petraeus is also the father of two NOVA Community College alumni.

An individual ticket to the event is \$25 per person. An individual ticket that includes a signed copy of "Conflict" is \$50. All proceeds from the event will go to support the [Student Success Fund](#). See details about this talk [here](#). Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

The Spring 2024 catalog of classes is available online. Registration is OPEN!

Community Outreach

Happy New Year! This month we feature the [Capital Area Food Bank](#) (CAFB), which supports the entire metropolitan Washington area. Through teamwork and partnering with over 400 nonprofit organizations, CAFB provides more than 50 million meals to almost



half a million residents every year. For every dollar donated they can provide two meals. Please donate [online](#) or by mailing your check to Capital Area Food Bank, 4900 Puerto Rico Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Joyce Pomeroy is resigning her position of co-chairman of the Community Outreach Committee effective June 30, 2024. This is a golden opportunity for someone to step up and fill this vacancy. You would serve along with Betsy Pugin, who has years of experience. Duties include writing an article for the newsletter several times a year and recruiting someone to deliver food after the forum collection (six times a year). Please contact Betsy (betsypugin@gmail.com) if you are interested in this position. Your help would be greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you!



Welcome to our newest members:

- Rend Franke
- Carol Quade
- Diane Rhodes
- Mary Zolman

Study/Travel Program

The Study/Travel Committee is delighted to announce plans for an epic LLI/NOVA trip to escape the cold of January 2025 and experience the enchanting landscapes of Australia and New Zealand. The Committee chose Grand Circle Travel as our tour operator



for several reasons, including comprehensive coverage of the highlights of these countries, remarkably low

prices, six free single-room supplements, and LLI/NOVA's excellent history with Grand Circle. For details and information on registering, click [here](#).

It's not too late to join your fellow LLI/NOVA travelers and share experiences on an extraordinary journey through the heart of Europe on Viking's Grand



European Tour – beginning in June. In their 2023 world's best rankings, Condé Nast Traveler rated Viking as #1 for River Cruises, and Travel & Leisure ranked Viking as #4 for River Cruises. Despite these top ratings, Viking has offered LLI/NOVA excellent total pricing, essentially equal to lesser-rated cruises' pricing.

Viking is offering round-trip economy class airfare for \$599. For details and information on registering, click [here](#).

Contact Study/Travel Committee Chair Rod Dyck at rd2222@aol.com or 703-328-1660 with any questions or comments.

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 Rod Dyck.

Cultural Excursions

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. (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.)

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.

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 are 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. (NOTE: Due to site availability, this getaway will take place on Tuesday, February 20. The date in the Fairfax County Parktakes publication is incorrect.)

Watch for more details about the following excursions in next month's newsletter:

March 13: The 61st Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show, Alexandria - 10:30 a.m.

Visit Woodlawn Plantation during the annual Needlework Show to see the needlework that is displayed throughout the historic house. The house was built in 1805 on land given by George Washington to Nelly Custis and her husband, Lawrence Lewis. The theme of this year's Needlework Show is "Needlework in Everyday Life."

After touring the house and viewing the needlework, enjoy lunch at Nelly's Café, if you wish. Nelly's is located in the historic house.

You may also tour the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Pope-Leighey house, which is on the grounds of Woodlawn Plantation. The Pope-Leighey house, an example of affordable Usonian architecture, exhibits the distinct features characteristic of Wright's formidable vision and style.

For more information on the Needlework Show and Woodlawn, click [here](#).

March 19: O Street Museum in the Mansion, D.C. - 10:30 a.m.

Take the self-guided Secret Door Tour of the O Street Mansion, a hands-on, immersive museum/hotel/showpiece with a focus on history and music legends. Each visit promises access to at least 60 legendary rooms and 32 concealed passages. It's your challenge to find and conquer, using just your sleuthing skills.

The O Street Museum's website says that Smithsonian rated it one of the "Top 5 places to explore - in the world!" and Bookings.com listed it as "The coolest place in DC!" Learn more about this unique site [here](#).

If desired, join members for lunch in Dupont Circle after the Museum visit.

A Delightful Winter Luncheon

Held on December 6

at the Country Club of Fairfax

❄️ Gourmet food and stimulating conversation were greatly enjoyed by 76 LLI member/friends.



❄️ Toys were collected/donated to Bethany House.



❄️ LLI VP and emcee Patricia Brennan announced LLI's 2023 Meritorious Service Awards to Anna Dixon and posthumously to Dick Robison (his widow Judy accepted the award).



❄️ Rod Dyck, Study/Travel Committee Chair, reminded attendees to register for LLI/NOVA's June 2024 Viking Grand European cruise (shown with wife, Joyce).



❄️ Brief remarks were made by our luncheon guests: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, and Braddock District Supervisor Jim Walkinshaw (left to right).



Note from the Chair, Winter Luncheon

A special thanks to all who helped make this annual event a success! First, Bonnie Hopler, previous chair for years, provided impeccable notes and helpful conversation. Janice Viola shared much guidance and provided nametags and greeted guests. Cathy Becker helped with table decorations and greeting. Bob Huley made our online registration with credit card easy to use and to track attendee count and entrée choices. Fritz Ernst took pictures, for endless memories. Musicians donated their talents: guitarists George Simpson and Jeff Almen and pianist Mary Alexander. Also, Mary took charge of inviting our Fairfax County Board of Supervisor guests. My fellow artisan friend Dick White donated the ceramic pieces that were given to one lucky diner at each table. And thanks go to Pastry Xpo in Mosaic District for our delicious white chocolate raspberry cake dessert, and to the Country Club for a lovely meal in a splendid setting.

Chair JoAnn Ackerman shown with her patient husband and LLI Board member Rich.



Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact



Bridge – Thursday, December 21, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Thomas

Jefferson Library (no bag lunch), and Wednesday, January 10, 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 – Thursday, January 18, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (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 – Tuesday, January 16, 11:30 a.m. See article on next page for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, January 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

"The Maid" by Nita Prose. The book for our February 5 meeting will be "Desert Star" by Michael Connelly. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, January 19, 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 – No meeting in December. Tuesday, January 23 (Qwerkle), 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts

Save the date for VPA's spring outing to Glenstone! We are scheduled to visit on Thursday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. The owners' vision of Glenstone is not only as a place, but a state of mind created by the energy of architecture, the power of art, and the restorative qualities of nature. Glenstone seamlessly integrates art, architecture, and nature into a serene and contemplative environment. It assembles post-World War II artworks of the highest quality that trace the greatest historical shifts in the way we experience and understand art of the 20th and 21st centuries. These works are presented in a series of refined indoor and outdoor spaces designed to facilitate meaningful encounters for visitors. Outdoor sculptures are installed in a variety of terrain, so comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Reserve your spot by sending an email to vpa@linoval.org. For further information about Glenstone, check out [this](#) YouTube video.

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. To find details about the shows and purchase tickets online, click on the LLI VPA SIG webpage [here](#). These are the remaining shows and dates for which this discount applies (links are to GMU's website):

- [Hamid Rahmanian'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

Tuesday, January 16, 11:30 a.m.

IndAroma, Pinecrest Plaza, 6548C Little River Tnpk., Alexandria

Dine with Foodies & Friends at the lovely, modern Indian restaurant, IndAroma. The cafe offers authentic, traditional, and modern Indian fare, all prepared fresh to your preferred spice level. Like the name itself, IndAroma is all about fusion; modern and traditional; flavors, colors, and yes – the amazing aromas – skillfully crafted by creative chefs to delight all the senses. From their popular Aam Palak Chaat to the warm and flavorful Goat Biryani, you are sure to find the perfect dish to satisfy your craving for delicious Indian fare. Oh, and don't forget to save room for dessert! IndAroma's pastry chefs make fresh cakes and desserts daily for the pastry counter. RSVP to our host for this event, Jona Wheeler (jonajw@gmail.com or 703-508-8859), no

later than January 14. There is plenty of free parking and the restaurant is accessible. Separate checks will be provided. Come see for yourself and experience exotic India! Check out the restaurant's website at <https://indaroma.com/restaurant>.



LLI Newsletter Committee

Chair: Cathy Becker, cz.becker@verizon.net

Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan