



News & Views

Volume 28—Number 3

March 2024

Wednesday, March 6 -- LLI/NOVA FORUM

LOCATION: Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale
Socializing starts at 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.

Penny Gross on Life in Public Service



Newly retired after serving 28 years as the Mason District Supervisor, Penny Gross will share her perspectives on life in public service, including the most rewarding and more challenging aspects, and will even mention a few of the more humorous requests and calls that she has received.

Board of Supervisors Chair Jeffrey McKay said, “Penny played a key role in initiatives too numerous to mention to move Fairfax County and our entire region forward.” He particularly appreciated “her candor, her straightforwardness, and her tough love when it’s needed.” Dan McKinnon, chair of the

Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee, commented, “I don’t think there is a supervisor more knowledgeable about Fairfax County, the operation of its government, or the needs of its families and businesses. She is totally dedicated to making Annandale, and indeed her whole district, a better place to live, work, and play.”

Penny was instrumental in bringing about many safety improvements to Annandale, Culmore, and Bailey’s Crossroads, and she promoted many affordable-housing ventures in the area. Also, Penny was very proud of facilitating the startup of the popular summertime “Spotlight by Starlight” concerts at Mason District Park and Ossian Hall Park.

A native of Eugene, OR, Penny came to Washington, DC, in 1965 to work for Senator Wayne Morse (OR), a staunch opponent of the Vietnam War, and later for Senator Frank Church (ID). Morse, whom she refers to as a mentor, introduced her to her husband, Harold “Hal” Gross, who passed away in November following a long illness.

Penny has said, “Being a local elected official uses every ounce of energy and every brain cell one has,” so we are honored that, after retiring two months ago, Penny has included our Forum on her list of things she wants to do!

After-Forum Lunch

Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at Hunan West in Kings Park Shopping Center, 8938 Burke Lake Rd, Springfield. Patricia Brennan will host.

President's Message



As the class coordinator for an in-person morning class that had to be canceled due to snow on February 13, I realized that with this warm winter, we had not been publicizing our inclement weather policy, which is tied to the Fairfax County Public

Schools' (FCPS) decisions. On the night before that class, I had learned of a two-hour delay for FCPS and had emails sent to notify all registrants, just in case they had not learned of the FCPS decision.

Our LLI weather cancelation policy is currently being revised to address, among other things, Zoom classes, which will generally still be held. Since winter is not yet over, just remember that the basic guidance for holding LLI in-person classes is as follows: **If FCPS schools are closed, so are the LLI classes; and if FCPS delays morning opening, LLI morning classes are canceled.**

Fortunately, we have been able to reschedule the two classes that were canceled due to weather this semester, and online registration is currently OPEN to all LLI members to sign up for the new dates. The original registrants do not need to re-register:

- "Blue Light and the Amazing Story of the Confederate Submarine CSS Hunley" (canceled February 13) is rescheduled for Friday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. Register [here](#).
- "Organizing for Seniors" (canceled January 17) is rescheduled for Monday, April 8, 1:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Community Outreach co-chair Joyce Pomeroy will be leaving her position in June, which offers a golden opportunity for a new volunteer to step in and to serve with Betsy Pugin, who has years of experience. Duties include writing a short article for the newsletter several times a year and recruiting someone to deliver food after the Forum collection (six times a year). Contact

Betsy (betsypugin@gmail.com) if you are interested in this position. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Finally, I want to encourage our members to consider **offering** a class for LLI. We are currently accepting class proposals for our summer session. The process is simple, involving filling out a form [here](#). If you have an area of expertise (you don't have to be a college professor or have a PhD) that you can share with our membership, our Curriculum Committee and its new chair, Patti Volz, would love to consider your class proposal.

Derick Malis
LLI/NOVA President

Community Outreach



We're excited that our March Forum will be in-person so that we can collect items to benefit students and staff at

NOVA Annandale. Many students struggle to pay for their education while also supporting their families. Through our scholarship program, LLI helps some students pay tuition and fees. By donating to **NOVA Annandale's food pantry**, we can help students and staff fight hunger and food insecurity, so they can focus, get better grades, and maintain their physical and mental health.

Currently, the most needed items are ready-to-eat meals (microwavable food and just-add-water meals), soups, oatmeal, granola and protein bars, snacks, individual juices and waters, and vegan, vegetarian, and plant-based items. Thanks, as always, for your generosity!

Also, please consider volunteering to help Betsy on our committee. (See Derick's President's message above.) Our committee provides LLI members another way to help the community.

- *Betsy Pugin and Joyce Pomeroy*

Improving Nutrition & Reducing Food Insecurity in Older Adults

Tuesday, March 26, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The Commonwealth Council on Aging, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, BES Studios, and the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging invite you to a webinar on reducing malnutrition and food insecurity among older adults.

During the webinar, presenters will:

- Provide background on older-adult malnutrition and food insecurity needs in Virginia,
- Present five new, innovative training videos,
- Demonstrate how the aging-services workforce and the public can access the new videos and accompanying materials.

Additional information and registration [here](#).



Lyceum Events

A Brief History of Women's Education in celebration of Women's History Month

Thursday, March 28, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Annandale Campus, room CA 302

Speaker: **Dr. Jennifer Winters,**

NOVA history professor

Moderator: Dr. Manori Nadesalingam

Dystopian Love Stories in celebration of National Poetry Month

Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Annandale Campus, room CA 302

Speaker: **Professor Indigo Eriksen,**

NOVA English professor

Moderator: Professor Steven Lessner



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

- Monday, March 18, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Women's History Month: Local Author to Share Perspectives
Speaker: Toni M. Andrews
Details are available [here](#).



Welcome to our newest members:

- Ina Downey
- Luis Granados
- Richard Leininger
- Janet and Stanley Morgan
- Arthur Simcox



In Memoriam – LLI Alumnus

Former LLI member **Dr. Robert (Bob) Lloyd, Jr.** passed away on February 4. Bob attended Providence College and Georgetown University Medical School. In addition to completing a fellowship in Rheumatology at Georgetown, he went on to serve in the Navy, where he completed a second fellowship at the Department of Veterans Affairs and cared for patients at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA. He received many awards over the years, including clinical faculty awards from Georgetown. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Master of the American College of Rheumatology.

Bob, along with his wife Midge, joined LLI in July 2013. He was part of the Financial Review Committee for several years.



Study/Travel Program - POC Rod Dyck (rd2222@aol.com or 703-328-1660)



Australia and New Zealand - Join us on Wednesday, February 28, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a meeting to discuss our epic tour of Australia and New Zealand in January 2025. A Grand Circle Travel representative will present information about the trip and answer questions. Join this Zoom meeting at <https://oatkickboston.zoom.us/j/91436356340>; Meeting ID 914 3635 6340.

Grand European Tour with Viking — It's not too late to register for our extraordinary river cruise through the heart of Europe beginning in June. Viking is offering round-trip economy class airfare for \$599.

Rod Dyck is maintaining a list of those looking to share a cabin on this trip. One woman is interested in sharing with another woman, and one man is interested in sharing with another man or woman. If you might be interested, please contact Rod.



For full information on both trips and information on registering, click [here](#).

The Study/Travel Committee is still looking for a volunteer to chair its Study Subcommittee. The subcommittee focuses on the study part of the program, which involves travel destination classes prior to travel. If you are interested or would like to learn more about the subcommittee, please contact Rod.

Foodies & Friends



Friday, March 15, 12:00 p.m.

Ireland's Four Provinces, 105 W. Broad St., Falls Church

Céad míle fáilte! A hundred thousand welcomes as Foodies & Friends celebrates both the 20th anniversary of the founding of LLI's food-focused Special Interest Group AND that most-American of holidays that isn't American – St. Patrick's Day. Please join our anniversary celebration at [Ireland's Four Provinces](#) as we gather with good friends, good food, and perhaps a pint of Guinness. The first Foodies & Friends luncheon was held in March 2004, and while many dining establishments have come and gone in the past 20 years, Ireland's Four Provinces is one of the earliest restaurants that hosted the group and that still remains in operation.

There is an Irish song with the lyrics "Wherever you go around the world, you'll find an Irish pub." And like those in other parts of the world, Ireland's Four Provinces is inspired by the friendly hospitality and cheer of a true Irish pub. As such, it emphasizes quality food served in a welcoming and pleasant space. The menu is innovative, offering regular pub fare along with the chef's interpretations of Irish classics using only the freshest local ingredients. And like any Irish pub, there is a wide variety of beverages available to enhance your celebration. RSVP to Bev Portman at firse@juno.com no later than Wednesday, March 13. Accessible parking is available along the driveway next to the Broad St. side of the restaurant, and there is free parking on the top level of the George Mason Square parking garage behind the restaurant. Separate checks will be provided. Wear something green and feel free to invite a leprechaun. **Sláinte!**

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, and Wednesday, March 27, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library (no bag lunch).

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

Favorite Books – Thursday, March 21, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

"Educated" by Tara Westover (memoir). 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 – Friday, March 15, 12:00 p.m. See article on previous page for details.

Mystery Books – Mondays, March 4 and April 1, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

Our March book is "Silent Bite: An Andy Carpenter Mystery" by David Rosenfelt. Our April book is "I Didn't Do It" by Jaime Lynn Hendricks. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, March 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 – Tuesdays, February 27 (Mexican Train) and March 26 (Swoop), 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL. Swoop allows all members to participate as one big group. Come join us!

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts

Save the date for VPA's spring outing to Glenstone, Thursday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Reserve your spot by sending an email to vpa@llinova.org. For further information about Glenstone, check out [this](#) YouTube video.

Discounted Tickets at GMU Center for the Arts – [Small Island Big Song](#), April 20, at 8:00 p.m. LLI members may purchase tickets for this performance for \$15.00 (plus a \$4.00 service fee) per seat. Details are available on the LLI VPA SIG webpage [here](#).

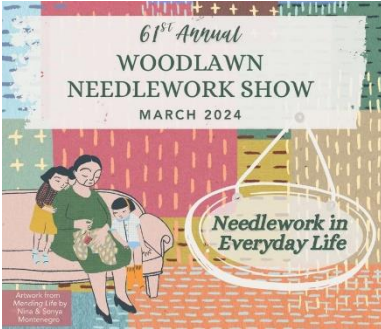
Come join us. All are welcome!



Cultural Excursions

For additional information and to register for excursions, please go to the LLI class listing webpage. The Cultural Excursions committee is interested in hearing from our members. Send your trip ideas to Carol Fagnani (contact info online).

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.

Tickets are \$18. The house was built in 1805 on land given by George Washington to Nelly Custis and her husband, Lawrence Lewis. A tour of the Pope-Leighey House, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home, is also available for \$12.

March 19: The Mansion on O Street, 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; which rooms and which secret doors change daily. It's your challenge to find and conquer! Learn more about this unique site at omuseum.org. Tickets are \$30 plus tax.

April 11: Guided tour of Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria –11:00 a.m.

[Ivy Hill Cemetery](#) is a stunning 22+ acres of well-kept burial grounds among hills, woodlands, and a natural stream. It hosts many species of birds and wildlife in the middle of Alexandria's residential neighborhoods.

Established in the mid-19th century, it's the burial place of many famous Alexandrians, as well as ordinary citizens.



As you walk with our tour guide, you'll recognize names reflected throughout Alexandria: on buildings, on the streets, and in the names of current businesses. You'll visit the receiving vault which was built as cold storage for pending burials. The tour will last approximately two hours. **We will meet at Ivy Hill Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.**

Members and guests are welcome and each must register on the LLI website [here](#). The cost of the tour is \$15, payable to the tour guide at the site. This is a meetup excursion.

Transportation is independent or car pool. Bus transportation from the King Street – Old Town Metrorail station is available, with a short walk to the cemetery from the bus stop. Maximum is 10 individuals. The LLI Cultural Excursion leader is Regina Rogers.

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

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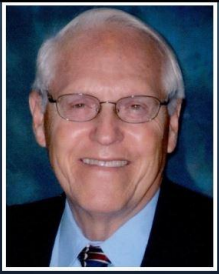
LLI Newsletter Committee

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

In Memoriam



Lorin Goodrich



Longtime member and former LLI President **Lorin Goodrich** passed away on January 21. He and his wife Janet joined LLI in September 1997, about a year after LLI's inception. Lorin grew up in New York and received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University. He started what would be a 34-year career in federal government, working in the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce and in the International Trade Commission, eventually advancing to the Senior Executive Service

Lorin made countless contributions to LLI. He joined the Board in 1998, initially assisting in locating classroom space. He served as vice president from 1999 to 2001, handling strategic planning and other functions, and then served as president from 2001 to 2004. He remained on the Board of Directors as past president from 2004-2007.

Lorin was recognized in 2019 as a member of the LLI Honor Circle — LLI members honored for their willingness to devote their time and energy to providing us with quality educational opportunities. The positions for which he was cited included:

- Member of the Curriculum Committee for 19 years, coordinating over 300 classes taught primarily by NOVA faculty, with whom he had an excellent working relationship;
- Chair of Forum Committee for two years, in addition to overseeing Forum room arrangements;
- Member of Nominating Committee for six terms, two as chairman.

In addition to his many years of support to LLI, on countless occasions Lorin was the “go to” person for members to get help and advice. One member said, “Lorin was ‘Mr. Everything’.” As president, he provided strong leadership during LLI's formative years, and his work on the Curriculum Committee was instrumental in getting us “hooked into” the NOVA faculty. Lorin said of his years of service, “I have always been inspired by the spirit of volunteerism among LLI members. It has been a pleasure to work with so many great people and to get to know them. I have enjoyed working with the NOVA faculty and seeing how much they enjoy offering classes for LLI.”

In 1999, LLI established a student scholarship program to give financial help to outstanding students at the NOVA Annandale Campus and to show LLI's appreciation for NOVA's support of us. At the September 2019 forum, Lorin was recognized for his outstanding service during more than 20 years of LLI membership. The name of the annual academic scholarship award was changed to the Lorin Goodrich Scholarship.

Both Lorin and Janet were frequent travelers with the LLI Study/Travel program. They loved the theater and ushered at the Kennedy Center and the Warner Theater. Lorin served as president of the Annandale Chapter of National Active and Retired Federal Employees and as executive director of the Reunion Music Society. He volunteered with the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, the Newseum, and the Chapel Square West Community Association.

Lorin made countless friends during his many years with LLI, and he will be sorely missed. We are so very grateful for all his contributions and his willingness to give his talents and positive spirit to LLI. We also thank Janet, his wife of 62 years, for her tremendously supportive role to Lorin and to LLI.