



# News & Views

Volume 28—Number 4

April 2024

## Wednesday, April 3 -- 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.

## Lessons in Life on the Basketball Court



Sports have an enormous impact on cultures all over the world, we might all agree. But most sports enthusiasts don't focus on the essential role of sports officials. At this Forum, **Reverend Scott Bach-Hansen**, a retired basketball official at the high school and NCAA men's levels, will help us appreciate that role. You may remember that Scott was our guest speaker at our March 2020 Forum. He was partially through his presentation when a fire alarm interrupted our enjoyment and laughter, causing us to evacuate the Ernst Center and go home. At our April Forum, we will finally get to hear the rest of his talk! He is definitely a comeback kid, and we are grateful.

Scott will share anecdotes about his experiences with sometimes out-of-control fans, players, parents, and coaches, and perhaps some hard-to-believe experiences from his time as referee. He will discuss the demands of being an official as well as how and why he chose to become a referee. What is it like blowing the whistle and knowing that half of the attendees may be disappointed with your call? He will talk about the importance of communication and will raise important issues for education and society. As a referee, Scott says that he has learned a lot of life lessons applicable to his professional life, to the world of basketball, and in his transition to a new role in ministry.

Scott is still involved in local basketball as the president of Cardinal Basketball Officials Association, and he runs a summer camp for new basketball officials. He has been a clinician, trainer, and speaker for the NCAA and the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He has also worked for the National Basketball Association (NBA) in referee operations as a courtside administrator. He has officiated games involving more than 50 players in the NBA, including LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Allan Iverson. Scott spent 25+ years in sales leadership for Global 500 companies. He has a BS in Business Management from Western Governors University and will soon have his Master of Divinity degree. He lives in Fairfax with his wife of almost 23 years, Michele, three daughters—Madison (21), Kayla (18), and Emory (14)—and a puppy named Charlie.

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### After-Forum Lunch

Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at [Giardino Italian Restaurant](#) in Kings Park Shopping Center, 8944 Burke Lake Rd, Springfield. Separate checks. Patricia Brennan will host.

## President's Message



Although I had to leave early to give an LLI presentation to a National Association of Retired Federal Employees Chapter, from the reports that I received, our March 6 Forum was a huge success! Our speaker was Penny Gross, who retired

recently after serving 28 years as the Mason District Supervisor. Penny shared how she first came to the DC area and embarked on a full career of public service. She left Eugene, OR, in 1965 as a young woman and found successive jobs in two senators' offices prior to starting work in Fairfax County.

As she spoke, Penny eloquently enchanted, inspired, and entertained us with stories of thriving on solving problems, the hard work of campaigning, starting up "Spotlight by Starlight" summer concerts in the parks, the rich diversity in this area, developing affordable housing, and respectfully allowing people to vent. Our members were awed and honored to hear the perspective of this quintessential public servant.

LLI is highly dependent on volunteers to help us provide our programs and services, while keeping our annual membership fee low—"the best deal in town." We invite you to serve on any of our 12 committees based on your interests or expertise. Committees and POCs are listed [here](#) under the "Committees" tab. The Membership Outreach Committee is especially shorthanded and would welcome your help.

Along this vein, I want to thank Joyce Pomeroy as she steps down from many years of service on our two-person Community Outreach Committee, which coordinates the collection of food donations at our monthly Forums and arranges to deliver them to local food banks. The chair, Betsy Pugin, will now be joined by a

new volunteer, Susan Jagen, and we are reJoycing!

LLI is expanding the number of opportunities for members to provide service to our community. We have organized an event on April 25 to assemble Power Packs for food-insecure children at the local Food for Others (FFO) warehouse. Register for this as you would a class. Additional information is on page 3 in the Community Outreach article and [here](#).

Finally, LLI Vice-President Patricia Brennan, has suggested we create a Technology Special Interest Group (SIG)/Service for LLI/NOVA, the details of which need to be worked out. Many members could use occasional help with specific aspects of their computers or phones, and others have technical expertise they are willing to share. See the following article.

*Derick Malis*  
*LLI/NOVA President*

### Tech SIG/Service Group at LLI?



Flummoxed by your cell phone? Annoyed at your Android? Are there times when you'd like help with your tech devices?

LLI/NOVA is considering setting up a Tech SIG (Special Interest Group)/Service staffed by volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge. Is this something you'd like to have available? Would you like to meet in a designated location on a given day/time, as other SIGs do, or would you rather have the contact information of the volunteers so you can arrange your own meetup? Maybe Zoom plays a role? We're on the ground floor on this. Please email your comments to [patriciabbrennan@cox.net](mailto:patriciabbrennan@cox.net).





## Community Outreach and Volunteer Opportunity

At our in-person April Forum, we will be collecting donations for [Food for Others'](#) (FFO) Power Pack Program. FFO provides food for children, seniors, people who are sick or disabled, and the working poor who struggle to obtain enough nutritious food to live a healthy life. FFO's Power Pack Program helps ensure school-aged children do not go hungry on the weekends. Children in many Fairfax County households would otherwise have little to eat between their school-provided Friday lunch and Monday breakfast. FFO's Power Pack Program provides weekend meals during the school year for 3,900 children at 44 Fairfax County elementary schools.

The following items are needed for the Power Packs: oatmeal packets, individual-sized cereal, chili cups, single-serving mac & cheese cups, tuna/chicken salad kits with crackers, microwaveable ravioli and single-serving Chef Boyardee meals, fruit cups (in juice, not syrup), cheese & crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks/dried fruit, fruit juice (100% juice) boxes, and shelf-stable milk. Please do **not** donate peanut butter or items that include peanut butter, candy, Pop-Tarts, Vienna sausages, high sugar items, apple sauce cups with tinfoil lids, or bottled water.

### In-Person Volunteer Opportunity

In conjunction with this month's Forum donation collection, LLI is organizing a volunteer opportunity for our members to assemble the Power Packs at FFO's warehouse located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax. We will assemble Power Packs on Thursday, April 25, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. More details and the registration link are provided on the LLI website [here](#). Contact [Loren Brandman](#) with any questions.

## Thank you, Joyce!

Many thanks to Joyce Pomeroy as she phases out her coordination of the Community Outreach effort. She has been crucial to the LLI mission of assisting community food pantries, and helping to get the collections advertised and delivered. She and Betsy started out as co-volunteers and quickly became a team. Thanks, now, to Susan Jagen, who has volunteered to assist in this effort and sustain LLI outreach efforts. Good luck with the mission, Betsy and Susan. And good luck, dear Joyce, in any future spare time you may find! Thank you for your six years of Community Outreach!

- Betsy Pugin



## NOVA Annandale Events

### Dystopian Love Stories

in celebration of National Poetry Month  
**Wednesday, April 17, 1:00–2:00 p.m.**, CA302  
Speaker: **Professor Indigo Eriksen**,  
NOVA English professor  
Moderator: Professor Steven Lessner

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**Silent Legacy: A Journey Through Deaf History**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 11:30 a.m.**, CA 302

NVCC ASL/INT Program Presents  
**Deaf History MONTH EVENTS**  
Join us for these informational and interactive events presented by Annandale ASL Professor Daniel Frame  
Both sessions will be interpreted from ASL to English

**DEAF CULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

**SILENT LEGACY: A JOURNEY THROUGH DEAF HISTORY**  
Wednesday, April 10  
11:30 AM  
CA 302

**DISCOVER DEAF CULTURE**  
Friday, May 3  
12:00 PM noon  
CA 320

**NOVA** Northern Virginia Community College

Open to NOVA students, faculty, staff and community patrons

## Study/Travel Program - POC Rod Dyck ([rd2222@aol.com](mailto:rd2222@aol.com) or 703-328-1660)

The Study/Travel Committee is excited about two extraordinary upcoming trips planned for LLI/NOVA members, friends, and family:



Grand European River  
Cruise with Viking –  
June 20-July 4, 2024



Australia and New Zealand  
with Grand Circle Travel –  
January, 2025

See the [LLI/NOVA Study/Travel Program webpage](#) for full details on these trips.

## Foodies & Friends

Tuesday, April 23, 12:00 p.m.

Villa Bella, 6050 Burke Commons Rd., Burke



Join Foodies & Friends for lunch at Villa Bella, a cozy Italian restaurant in Burke. Villa Bella is known for its authentic Italian dishes and hand-made brick oven pizza. Sicilian owners Tony and Julia Amato brought their secret family recipes to Burke in 2000.

RSVP for this event to our host, Liddell McLeod ([liddell\\_mcl@cox.net](mailto:liddell_mcl@cox.net) or 703-698-8366), no later than April 21. There is plenty of free parking and the restaurant is accessible. Separate checks will be provided. You can see the menu and pictures of the dishes on their web site, [villabellaristorante.com](http://villabellaristorante.com). Buon Appetito!



## Children's Book Drive

LLI is once again supporting [Read Early And Daily](#) (R.E.A.D.) with a book drive this May. R.E.A.D. was founded in 2018 by Jennifer Sauter-Price and has made a significant difference in many children's lives.

Although our area has abundant resources compared with the rest of the state, one out of five children in Northern Virginia still live in poverty or near poverty. Having books in the home and being read to daily at an early age are the two most important predictors of school success, regardless of parent income or education level. And we can play a small part in helping to make this happen.

### How Can We Help?

There is a pressing need for **new** board books for infants and toddlers. If you wish to donate, see page 7 of this newsletter for a wish list of books that R.E.A.D. would love to receive.

### Where Do We Donate?

You may choose between either of the following options:

- Between now and May 1, mail your donations to Lynne Smaldone, 232 North Edgewood St., Arlington, VA, 22201. (Shipping is free with a Barnes & Noble membership or Amazon Prime.)
- Bring your books to the Forum on Wednesday, May 1.

Let's make this year's Children's Book Drive the best one yet!

## Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

**POC** = Point of Contact

**Bridge – Wednesdays, April 10 and 24, 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](mailto:roberthuley@cox.net)

**Favorite Books – Thursday, April 18, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL**

"Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus (fiction).

POC Lynne Smaldone, [lynne.smaldone@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.smaldone@gmail.com)

**Foodies & Friends – Tuesday, April 23, 12:00 p.m.** See article on previous page for details.

**Mystery Books – Monday, April 1, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL**

Our April book is "I Didn't Do It" by Jaime Lynn Hendricks. On May 6, we will be reviewing

"The Inner Circle" by Brad Meltzer. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

**Photography – Friday, April 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](mailto:hbm@hbmphoto.com)

**Tabletop Games – Tuesdays, March 26 (Swoop) and April 23 (Penny Drop), 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](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

**Visual and Performing Arts – Discounted Tickets at GMU Center for the Arts**

LLI members may purchase tickets for the April 20, 8:00 p.m. performance of [Small Island Big Song](#) 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

Detailed information is available on the [LLI website Cultural Excursions page](#). For each excursion, you will need to register as you would for a class so we can get a head count. Send your trip ideas to Carol Fagnani (contact info online).

### April 11: Guided tour of Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria –11:00 a.m., \$15

During our guided tour, 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. [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. It was established in the mid-19th century.



The LLI trip leader is Regina Rogers.

### May 2: Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, MD – 10:30 a.m., \$14



[Ladew Gardens](#), deemed “the most outstanding topiary garden in America” by the Garden Club of America, and featured as one of “ten incredible topiary gardens around the world” by Architectural Digest, is located in the Maryland countryside 20 miles north of Baltimore. At the gardens, you may purchase a ticket for a docent-led tour of the home for \$7. Leader is Carol Fagnani.

### May 3: Afternoon Tea at The Things I Love, Manassas – 1:00 p.m., \$40

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea of three courses at **The Things I Love**, located in the heart of Historic Manassas. If you arrive early (we will not be seated prior to our 1:00 p.m. reservation), enjoy browsing through the lovely boutique filled with home décor, jewelry, women's accessories, bath and body products, and baby items. The garden-like tearoom is located in the back of the shop, and can accommodate a maximum of 16 attendees. Payment must be made directly to the leader, Bonnie Hopler, by check or cash no later than April 26.



### Book Banning: How America's Libraries are Countering Censorship

Monday, April 15, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Nick Higgins**, Head Librarian,  
Brooklyn Public Library

Details are available [here](#).

No advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to join this event.



Welcome to our newest members:

- Susan Bigman
- Carlton and Tania Daniel
- Jane Gumkowski
- Adele Lynn

#### LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

<b>President:</b> Derick Malis	<b>Members:</b> Richard Ackerman, Mary Alexander, Cathy Becker, Andy James
<b>Vice Pres:</b> Patricia Brennan	Butler, Debbie Cohen, Steven Cohen, Fritz Ernst, Carol Fagnani, Richard Martin, Paul Massell, Patti Volz
<b>Secretary:</b> Gina Trapp	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Richard Sigman	
<b>Past President:</b> Anna Dixon	
<b>Administrator:</b> Janice Viola	

#### LLI Newsletter Committee

**Chair:** Cathy Becker, [cz.becker@verizon.net](mailto:cz.becker@verizon.net)  
Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan

## R.E.A.D. Book List

- *Moo, Baa, La-la-la* or other books by Sandra Boynton in English or Spanish
- *My Very First Bilingual Book* series or other books by Eric Carle in English or Spanish
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See?* or other books by Bill Martin in English or Spanish
- *I Know..* (Empowerment series) by Stephen Krensky
- *Red House, Brown Mouse* by Jane Godwin
- *Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions* by Abrams Appleseed
- *Baby Up, Baby Down: A First Book of Opposites* by Abrams Appleseed
- *Jane Cabrera's Story Time* series (nursery rhymes and songs) by Jane Cabrera
- *I Will Talk to You, Little One* by Tomie DePaola
- *Think Big, Little One* by Vashti Harrison
- *Indestructibles* series by various authors
- *Clive or Rosa* series by Jessica Spanyol
- *Hello World!* series by Jill McDonald
- *Nerdy Babies* series by Emmy Kastner
- *Baby Goes to Market* by Atinuke
- *B is for Baby* by Atinuke
- *Red Hat, Pink Boots* or *1 Smile, 10 Toes* by Nelleke Verhoeff
- *Count to LOVE!* by Andrea Pinkney
- *Up, Up, Down* by Kimberly Gee
- *Sun, Flower, Lion* by Kevin Henkes
- *A Parade of Elephants* by Kevin Henkes
- *Alphablock* or *Buildablock* or *Countablock* by Christopher Franceschelli
- *Supertruck* by Steve Savage
- *¡Chones, por favor! / Undies, Please!* by Seeboruth, Sumana
- *Hasta Las Rodillas / Up to My Knees\_ El último malvavisco / The Last Marshmallow\_ Que Llenara Canasta? / What Will Fit? or Circulo! Esfera! / Circle! Sphere!\_* by Grace Lin
- *The Feelings Book/El libro de los sentimientos* by Todd Parr
- *How Are You?/¿Cómo estás?* by Angela Dominguez
- *Mouse Paint/Pintura De Raton* Board Book by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- Any of the DK Touch and Feel series in English or Spanish
- Any of the Priddy Books series in English or Spanish
- Plastic bath books or cloth books for babies
- Lift-the-flap books for toddlers

Our mission is to ensure babies and young children have new, quality, culturally relevant books of their own that are mirrors and windows into their everyday lives and communities.

For more information, contact Jennifer Sauter-Price at [jsauterprice@readearlyanddaily.org](mailto:jsauterprice@readearlyanddaily.org)