



News & Views

Volume 28—Number 6

June 2024

Wednesday, June 5 -- LLI/NOVA FORUM

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



9:45 a.m. Membership Meeting/Election of Board

Forum Presentation: 10:15 a.m.

Campus Updates and the Gen Z Student Experience



For our Forum and annual LLI membership meeting we are again pleased to welcome Dr. Diane Mucci, the Annandale Campus Provost, to speak to us on what's new on the Annandale campus and to discuss the Gen Z impact on education and learning. [Generation Z, colloquially known as "Zoomers" or "digital natives," have birth years starting in mid 1990s and ending in early 2010s.] An award-winning faculty member, Dr. Mucci has dedicated herself to serving and developing as an academic leader, focused on equity in student success and advocacy for her colleagues. She has a strong track record of academic and community engagement essential to the role of provost. NOVA Annandale is focused on meeting students where they live and work, to improve economic and social mobility while developing individuals with academic excellence and the capacity to lead with empathy.

Dr. Mucci brings a wealth of experience to her post. Prior to becoming Provost, she was dean for math, science, technology and business at NOVA's Manassas Campus and served as program head for biotechnology and as for professor of biology. She led impactful grant-funded projects at NOVA and other institutions and served on advisory boards for George Mason University's Science and Technology Campus, George Washington University's Health Sciences programs, and the Osbourn High School Governor's STEM Academy of Innovations in Manassas. She has completed training to assist ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) students and to address student trauma; facilitated data equity summits related to STEM disciplines and participated in the NOVA Student Success Leadership Academy offered in partnership with Achieving the Dream. Dr. Mucci was a faculty member at Frederick Community College (MD), a Postdoctoral Fellow at the NIH Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, worked in private industry for Lockheed Martin, and served as a scientific writer for the NIH and other agencies. We look forward to hearing what's new on the Annandale campus.

After-Forum Lunch — Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at [Kilroy's](#) in Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5250A Port Royal Rd., Springfield. Patricia Brennan will host.

President's Message



As this will be my final President's Message, I want to take this opportunity to thank LLI, our Board, and our membership for having entrusted me with the presidency of our organization over the past three years. It has been an honor to lead and a pleasure to serve with our very "hands-on" Board of Directors and engaged membership. My special thanks go to the following:

- Patti Volz (on the slate for president in our June 5 election) served as VP before my presidency and through my first two years. Patti has coordinated our SIGs, stepped in as our Curriculum Chair, and chaired our Forum Committee for several years.

- Patricia Brennan has served as VP this past year and has been willing to step in and assist in innumerable situations. She's also coordinating the development of our new Tech SIG/Service.

- Mary Alexander has tirelessly promoted LLI membership growth as chair of our Membership Outreach Committee over the last three years.

- Cathy Becker and Loren Brandman have faithfully and brilliantly issued our newsletter every month. Cathy's editing of my monthly President's Message has actually made me come across as semi-articulate!

- Anna Dixon and Carol Fagnani have chaired our Visual and Performing Arts SIG and Cultural Excursions Programs, respectively. I also thank Anna, as our immediate past president, for her advice and determination in enhancing LLI's offerings to our membership.

- Fritz Ernst, Debbie Cohen, and Richard Sigman are all Board members who have served as treasurer (Richard is current). Fritz and Debbie also serve on our Budget & Finance Committee and Debbie coordinates our collaboration with AARP.

- Gina Trapp has served as our secretary, writing detailed Board meeting minutes. Richard Martin has chaired our Scholarship Committee. Richard Ackerman has reviewed our monthly financial statements over the last two years, and his wife, JoAnn, will coordinate for a second time the holiday luncheon this December. Outgoing board member Paul Massell has chaired our Automation Committee. Andy Butler has assisted in technology issues. Steve Cohen currently chairs our Forum Committee, is working to consolidate our Automation Committee, and unfailingly helps keep our Board meetings on schedule!

- Thanks to all our committee members and chairs who make LLI run. Without their volunteerism, we would not be able to operate with such a low annual membership fee.

- Finally, thanks to Janice Viola, our part-time staff member. Janice is the glue that makes everything work. Janice is our only paid staffer, and her commitment to making LLI successful goes way beyond the call of duty. She has been very responsive to my requests and has helped make my job manageable.

I urge all of our LLI members to get involved in a committee, a SIG, coordinating a class, or some LLI activity of interest that will ensure LLI's health and longevity. And thank you for your confidence in, and support of, my leadership over the past three years.

On a personal note, since I mentioned in my last President's Message that I would tell you about my recent trip to Greece, see page 8.

Derick Malis
President, LLI/NOVA

**Please Attend Our Short
2024 Annual Business Meeting**

Wednesday, June 5 at 9:45 a.m.,
followed by our Forum speaker at 10:15 a.m.

Thanks from LLI Scholarship Awardee

I am sincerely grateful for the generous scholarship you've awarded me; your support is not just a financial boost, but an investment in my education and future, motivating me to strive for excellence. I am truly honored and appreciative of the opportunities your generosity has opened to help me.

Ujwal Kodekkattu



Tech SIG/Service

Needing a bit of help/advice in using your cell phone, laptop, or other device? Some of your LLI/NOVA colleagues stand ready to assist:

- Susan Bigman, Apple devices: stbigman@gmail.com, 703-862-9323
- Luis Granados, Android devices: granadoskerry@yahoo.com
- Andy Butler, available evenings and weekends: abutler@pbs.org, 703-451-5834
- Fritz Ernst, a Mac specialist: fritz_ernst@msn.com, 703-569-3898
- Steve Malone: steven69m@icloud.com, 202-494-3773

Safely Navigating the Net

Carol Quade, an adjunct professor of Communication Studies/Theatre at NOVA's Annandale Campus, was recently interviewed for an interesting podcast: "Safely Navigating the Net with Dr. Carol Quade." To see the podcast, click [here](#), and find her outstanding endorsement of LLI at minute 23:15.



Dr. Quade is LLI/NOVA's primary liaison with NOVA, helping us recruit instructors at the Annandale and other NOVA campuses to offer engaging classes for our members. On April 5, we arranged an LLI/AARP Zoom

collaboration class to be given by Dr. Quade on "Media Literacy for Older Adults." Not only was it extremely well-received, but it resulted in the Alliance for Aging Research asking Dr. Quade to do the podcast, which is part of their podcast series "This Is Growing Old."



Welcome to our newest members:

- Thomas Ciciarelli
- Donna Gorton
- Patricia Granados
- Keith Hicks
- Glenn Levy

Member Passings

- Robert Sampson, LLI 2007—2019. Was active in the poetry group.
- Brent Beeson, LLI 2009—2024. Died March 2024. Served on the Curriculum Committee.
- Thelma Benyard, LLI 2012—2024. Died March 8, 2024.

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

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

LLI Newsletter Committee

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

Community Outreach



Since 1988, [Arlington Food Assistance Center](#) (AFAC) has been dedicated to its simple, but critical, mission of obtaining and distributing groceries, directly and free of charge, to people living in Arlington who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs. AFAC distributes over 80,000 pounds of food to more than 3,500 families every week. The Center operates under the Choice Model, which means that clients can select foods that meet their dietary and cultural needs. The Choice Model has been proven to reduce waste, as families are more likely to eat the foods that they choose to take home and know how to prepare.

Please bring something to the June 5 Forum to assist AFAC's very active food pantry. Patti Volz has volunteered to deliver our collection. The greatest needs are canned tuna, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, peanut butter (plastic jars) and cereal.

Our May food collection for ECHO weighed in at 136 pounds! Let's try to beat that in June!

– Betsy Pugin and Patti Volz



LLI members (JoAnn Ackerman and Loren Brandman are pictured) assembled Power Packs in April at the Food for Others warehouse. It was fun, and FFO was very grateful for our help. We hope to do this again in the fall.

Foodies & Friends

Friday, June 14, 12:30 p.m.

[Ocean Paradise Restaurant & Bar](#),
3903-I Fair Ridge Dr.,
Fairfax



Cast your net for a catch of fresh seafood! Join Foodies & Friends as we enjoy the freshest catch at Ocean Paradise & Bar. This favorite of Foodies is a family-owned restaurant that offers an innovative seafood concept, featuring fresh, high-quality seafood sourced directly from the coast and prepared entirely from scratch. Ocean Paradise was awarded as the 2022 "Diners' Choice" by Open Table. Check out their menu [here](#). Parking is easy, and the restaurant is accessible. Individual checks will be provided. Oh, and for meat lovers, the restaurant also has items to satisfy you. Hope to see you there!

RSVP for this event to our host, Patti Volz (pvolz63@gmail.com), no later than June 12.



A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the Children's Book Drive this year. We collected 115 new board books for R.E.A.D. They will be distributed to infants and toddlers in need.

When I contacted the head of the organization, Jennifer Sauter-Price, with the result of our drive, her response was "Fantastic!"

– Lynne Smaldone



Photos from LLI tea at *The Things I Love in Manassas* on May 3.

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).



July 15: [National Inventors Hall of Fame, Alexandria](#) – 11:00 a.m., free

Experience the past, present, and future of American ingenuity as you are introduced to more than 600 world-changing inductees and are immersed in stories of passion, perseverance, and progress. The guided tour will last approximately 30 minutes. Following the tour, lunch (credit cards only) may be purchased at the Patent and Trademark Office cafeteria.

This event will take place at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), 600 Dulany St., Alexandria. The building is fully accessible and there are benches throughout the museum.

Transportation is on your own or via carpool. There is parking in the East Garage at 551 John Carlyle St. (\$3 per hour; daily maximum of \$10). The USPTO is a short walk from both the King St. Metro station (Yellow and Blue lines) and the Eisenhower Ave. Metro station (Yellow line). POC is Ellen Wallace (ephelan80@hotmail.com).

Note that the maximum number of attendees this excursion can accommodate was increased to 30, so if you didn't sign up previously because of the limit being reached, you may now register [here](#)



Last Century Elections that Shaped Modern Virginia: What's Next?

Monday, June 24, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. on Zoom
Details are available [here](#).

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

Grand European River Cruise

– June 20–July 4, 2024. LLI travelers are eagerly anticipating a journey through Europe's picturesque landscapes and rich cultural heritage aboard a luxurious Viking river cruise. All cabins on this cruise are sold out.



Australia and New Zealand – January, 2025.

Escape the cold of January for an epic adventure with Grand Circle Travel to explore the breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cultures of Australia and New Zealand.

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



Visual and Performing Arts

June 9: National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden – 10:00 a.m., free

We will spend the morning sketching in the 6.1-acre National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden. Bring your own supplies or use the NGA's free, basic sketchbook and pencils. If the weather is not good, we will go inside the NGA West Building to the Sculpture Galleries; however, no painting is allowed indoors, just pencil and paper sketching.

The landscaping of the sculpture garden provides a distinctive setting for 17 major works, including important new acquisitions of post-World War II sculpture by internationally renowned artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Mark di Suvero, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, and Tony Smith.

We will enjoy the reflecting pool and fountain in the center of the Sculpture Garden. Spacious walking and seating areas give participants a chance to rest and reflect on the works of sculpture amid the rich settings composed of native American species of canopy trees, flowering trees, shrubs, ground covers, and perennials.

The Sculpture Garden is located at Seventh St. NW and Constitution Ave. NW, across from the National Gallery of Art's West Building. The closest Metro stop is Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter on the Green and Yellow lines. Parking in Metro lots and garages is free on Sundays.

This gathering is limited to LLI/NOVA members. Meet at the Sculpture Garden for coffee in the outdoor café. RSVP to Anna Dixon, VPA@llinova.org, by June 6.

More information about the Sculpture Garden may be found [here](#).



Discounted Tickets to George Mason University Center for the Arts Performances

The Visual and Performing Arts SIG is pleased to alert you about the 2024/25 entertainment package we just negotiated for LLI/NOVA members and guests at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

Starting August 1, when tickets go on sale to the public, LLI/NOVA members can use our specially designated code to purchase \$15-tickets to the following performances:

- Mark Morris Dance Group – Saturday, October 19, 2:00 p.m.
- Two School of Theater matinee performances for a fall musical (title not yet confirmed but we will certainly share once it is!) - Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3, 2:00 p.m.
- Take 6 (a holiday acapella group) – Sunday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.
- The Peking Acrobats - Sunday, March 9, 1:00 p.m.
- Shakespeare's "The Tempest" - March 29 and 30, and April 4 and 5, 2:00 p.m.
- Cirque Mechanics: Pedal Punk - Saturday, April 5, 2:00 p.m.
- Virginia Opera: "Loving v. Virginia" - Sunday, May 4, 2:00 p.m.

NOTE: If at least 10 LLI/NOVA members express an interest in seeing the Virginia Opera performance of "Carmen" on November 17 at 2:00 p.m., we will be eligible for the group discount price of \$34.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, June 12, and Thursday, June 27, 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, June 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

"Rules of Civility" by Amor Towles (fiction). There will be no meetings in July or August.

POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Friday, June 14, 12:30 p.m. See article on page 4 for details.

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

Our June book is "Independence Square" by Martin Cruz Smith. The group will not meet in July and August; it will return on September 9 to examine the book "Skinny Dip" by Carl Hiaasen.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, June 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at KPL. New members are always welcome. Cell phone cameras are fine. Meetings are normally the third Friday of every month.

POC Buck Myers, hbm@hbmphoto.com

Tabletop Games – Tuesdays, May 28 and June 25, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL. We will play a new game at our May meeting. Bring yourself and a pen or pencil. Hope to see you there!

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Tech SIG/Service – POC is Patricia Brennan, patriciabrennan@cox.net. See article on page 3.

Visual and Performing Arts – See articles on previous page.



Photo by Luis Granados, a member of the Photography SIG. This photo was taken in response to the theme "Get Close," in which members took photos of their subjects at very close range.

More Photography SIG photos are posted [here](#).

Derick's Trip to Greece and Turkey

As I promised in my President's Message last month, and to now share the joys of traveling, here are some highlights from the trip my wife, Inta, and I took in late April to Greece and Turkey.

After landing in Athens, we took the metro to our hotel with a view of the Acropolis right outside our balcony. We spent the next three days visiting historical sites including the Parthenon, the Ancient Agora of Athens,



Socrates' prison, Aristotle's Academy, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

From Athens we rented a car and traced the Greek/Persian War sites on the

Peloponnese. At Marathon we toured the museum, waded in the Aegean near the site of the 490 BCE battle, and viewed the tumulus (burial mound) in which the 192 Athenian and 11 Plataean fatalities are interred. We then travelled on to the "Hot Gates" of Thermopylae where Leonidas and his handful of Spartans and allies delayed the Persian invasion long enough for the Athenians to defeat the Persians in 480 BCE. We next visited the extensive temple complex at Delphi before returning to Athens. We then ferried to and from the Island of Salamis, the site of the sea battle where the Greek victory ultimately ended the Persian invasion.



We then flew to Mykonos and ferried to Santorini. Both are incredibly beautiful, but a bit

touristy. In Santorini we did a five-hour tour of many of the points of interest and climbed up and down the 900 or so steps to the old port.

We then ferried to Crete; the highlights were the city of Heraklion, the ruins of the Temple at



Knossos, and a beautiful drive to various towns on the northern coast. Unfortunately, I had caught some bug and was getting increasingly sicker, so visited a Cretan doctor. This appointment precluded a planned visit to the Archeological Museum

(of Minoan Art) that Roz Hoagland had recommended during her recent Art of the Ancient Aegean class for LLI. But the meds I took enabled me to carry on tolerably well.

From Crete we flew to Istanbul. We spent four days enjoying the food, diversity, and bustle of this largest European city (15 million). We visited the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Topkapi Palace, the Grand Bazaar, and the underground cisterns. A cruise along the Bosphorus included a brief visit to the Asian side of Istanbul. I spent some effort trying to establish precisely where the Golden Chain (that protected the Byzantine Empire for 800 years) was anchored. But because of time constraints, we didn't visit the Naval Museum that houses the chain's remnants. We also did not purchase a Turkish rug from the myriad vendors hawking them. Istanbul has an incredible 2,000-year history of Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and now modern Turkish rule. From Istanbul it was on to London and then stateside – just in time to attend our May 1 Forum!

