



News & Views

Volume 28—Number 7

July 2024

FORUMS: There will be no Forums in July or August. Next Forum will be September 4.

President's Message



First, I want to thank our immediate past president Derick Malis (2021–2024) for his leadership as we worked our way out of Covid and for making my transition seamless. I'll continue to rely on his views as I move forward.

I'd like to introduce myself to all members of LLI. Even if you don't know me personally, you may be familiar with my name and my work in various positions as LLI vice president, chair of the Forum Committee, member of the Nominating Committee, chair of the Foodies & Friends SIG, member of the Scholarship Committee, and current chair of the Curriculum Committee. I am looking forward to my new position as president with excitement and trepidation. Excitement, because I believe that LLI's best moments can be ahead of us. Trepidation, because I know words are easy and reality far more difficult. Trepidation has already vaulted to the top: for the next several months I will be continuing as chair of the Curriculum Committee as well as president, but it will be a top priority to find a new Curriculum Committee chair (perhaps the most important position in LLI). But there is excitement even in this challenge because I have confidence that our members will step up to help out the organization.

I'm going to keep my comments to a minimum this month, but in the coming months I will focus

on a couple of issues each month. I will close by saying that I know I cannot do this alone, nor can the Board. I urge you to send me your concerns and ideas. If you want me to cover an issue in a newsletter, let me know! I will try to respond to your emails as promptly as possible. Remember, our strength is our members!

Patti Volz (pvolz63@gmail.com)
President, LLI/NOVA

Annual Membership Meeting

Board Members

Prior to our Forum speaker's presentation on June 5, LLI conducted a brief annual membership meeting. Members voted to approve the slate of board members and officers that had been proposed.

Effective July 1, our Board consists of the following members and officers:

- President: Patti Volz
- Vice President: Patricia Brennan
- Treasurer: Richard Sigman
- Secretary: Gina Trapp
- Immediate past president: Derick Malis
- Richard Ackerman
- Mary Alexander
- Cathy Becker
- Andy James Butler
- Debbie Cohen
- Steve Cohen
- Fritz Ernst
- Carol Fagnani
- Richard Martin
- Ed McKnight

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget

(Presented at June 5 Membership Meeting)

LLI Bylaws require the Budget and Finance Committee to “develop a budget for the next fiscal year” and “present it to the Board of Directors for its review and approval.” In addition, our Bylaws further require that “After approval by the Board, this committee shall present the budget to the LLI membership at the annual meeting.”

Looking to the future, the Committee reviewed past budgets, developed a proposed FY 2025 budget, and presented it to the Board of Directors on March 8, 2024.

Expenses continue to escalate due to higher costs and added requirements to adequately support our activities. The organization has maintained the same dues structure since October 2006 by reducing costs (e.g., by using venues other than the Ernst Center for Forums) where possible and holding other increases to a reasonable level. However, when the expenses for next year were measured against expected revenues (dues being the primary source of organizational funding), the reality was that we could not continue to fund future requirements without a very modest \$15 dollar increase in annual dues, effective **July 1, 2024**. This increase will reduce the projected deficit to a manageable level. Clearly, increasing our membership numbers is the highest priority of LLI leadership and returning to pre-Covid numbers (i.e., 350+ members) would ease any anticipated deficit. All our members are encouraged to recruit new members.

The risk of a deficit budget is real, but LLI has sufficient operating funds to absorb the expected deficit over the next FY (based on maintaining our current membership level of 275 members).

A summary of the Board-approved budget follows this article. Please note that some of our normal activities are not shown either in the

income or expenses. Those items are financial accounts within the organization that are self-funded, e.g., the scholarship fund and winter luncheon fund, and do not depend on other financing.

In summary, the FY 2025 budget will support LLI’s traditional activities, contains a modest increase in dues to \$125/year, and poses a manageable deficit risk that can be accommodated with current resources.

Budget Summary for FY 2025

Income	
Description	FY25 Budget
Membership Dues	\$34,375.00
Interest	\$2,500.00
Total Income	\$36,875.00

Expenses	
Description	FY25 Budget
Administrative Support (950) hours	\$28,006.00
Membership Outreach	\$1,050.00
Software	\$2,244.80
Honoraria (Forum)	\$450.00
Insurance	\$1,600.00
Classroom Rental	\$800.00
Forum Rental (other than Ernst Ctr)	\$1,400.00
Office Supplies	\$1,453.00
Outside Printing	\$210.00
Postage/Mail	\$535.00
Web Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Credit Card Expense (Stripe fees)	\$900.00
Hospitality	\$420.00
Miscellaneous	\$20.00
Taxes and Fees	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$40,138.80
Net	(\$3,263.80)

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

President: Patti Volz	Members:
Vice Pres: Patricia Brennan	Richard Ackerman,
Secretary: Gina Trapp	Mary Alexander,
Treasurer: Richard Sigman	Cathy Becker, Andy J Butler,
Past President: Derick Malis	Debbie Cohen, Steven Cohen
Administrator: Janice Viola–	Fritz Ernst, Carol Fagnani,
Contact at admin@llinova.org	Richard Martin, Ed McKnight

LLI Newsletter Committee

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

Community Outreach

Summer Food Pantry Needs

With no in-person Forum in July and August for us to collect food donations, we hope you will continue to be generous with donations to local food pantries. Their stocks of food go down in the summer, with donors away or otherwise occupied. However, the needs of children, who usually get meals at school, are often unmet, and their families are impacted as well.

Please give to your favorite food pantry or food bank. One service that helps the community is “Food for Others” (FFO) in Fairfax. Among other services, they assemble and distribute Power Packs for school-age children to help meet their nutritional needs. With recruiting/organizing help from Loren Brandman, some members of LLI helped assemble those Power Packs in April. Although the Power Pack program has closed for this school year, FFO is now using donations to get ready for the packs they will start assembling at the end of the summer.

You can send a check to Food for Others at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, or check their website to donate by credit card: www.foodforothers.org/donate-now/

Thank you for your generosity!

– *Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen*

Welcome to our newest members:

- Ted Pasek
- Bill Tuceling
- Kristen Werner



Special Event: “Saving Worldwide Cultural Heritage in Crisis”

Monday, July 15, 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 – LLI/NOVA travelers are currently aboard a luxurious Viking river cruise. What stories they’ll have to tell!



Australia & 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. Grand Circle has had to raise its prices slightly for those newly registering. Those who have already registered have the original lower prices locked in. See the [LLI/NOVA Study/Travel Program webpage](#) for full details.

Watch Open-Heart Surgery at Inova Fairfax

Friday, July 26
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Inova Fairfax Medical Campus,
3300 Gallows Rd., Falls Church



The Dome Experience at Inova Schar Heart & Vascular Institute is a unique educational offering that invites community members to witness open-heart surgeries firsthand.

For most of us, the cardiac operating room of a hospital is a foreign world. We are not familiar with the specialized technology, the highly developed skills, and the intricate procedures. We know very little about how a surgical team repairs a heart damaged by years of smoking, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise. To help counter this, Inova opened the Observation Dome, a special observation deck built above one of the operating rooms in Inova Fairfax Hospital.

LLI members must register for this opportunity (limited to 18 attendees). Register and find more information [here](#). LLI POC is Loren Brandman (loren.brandman@gmail.com).

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, July 10, and Thursday, July 25, 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 – There will be no meetings in July or August.

POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Monday, July 22, 1:00 p.m. See article below.

Mystery Books – We will not meet in July or August, but will return on September 9 to discuss “Skinny Dip” by Carl Hiaasen. On October 7, we’ll review “Dead Mountain” by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, July 19, 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, July 23 and August 27, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

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

Visual and Performing Arts – See articles on 5.

Foodies & Friends

Monday, July 22, 1:00 p.m.

[Lassan Indian Restaurant & Bar](#)

6413A Shiplett Blvd., Burke



You are invited to join Foodies & Friends at Lassan – “where passion and tradition converge to create a modern Indian dining experience.”

Lassan means "garlic" in Hindi, and the restaurant embodies this essence of the kitchen – rich, bold, and unforgettable, much like the integral role garlic plays in Indian cuisine. Their chefs’ culinary creations combine traditional Indian flavors with modern techniques. Menu [here](#). Separate checks. Parking available. Fully accessible. RSVP to our host Rita Daley at ritadaley@gmail.com by **July 19**.

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



Visual and Performing Arts

Report on June 9 excursion to National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden



Pat Granados doing a portrait sketching of Patricia Brennan in the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden café

This outing was a great experience! We did a few quick portrait sketches before going outside about 10:00 a.m. to sketch several sculptures. Pat Granados sketched and painted the orange red Alexander Calder sculpture in the background of the above picture. We sketched for several hours before the New York City (NYC) urban sketchers arrived, and before LLI/NOVA member Anna Dixon gave a one-hour lecture on the outdoor sculptures. The NYC and Washington, D.C. urban sketchers worked inside the gallery's East Building while LLI/NOVA was outside in the Sculpture Garden.

We had so much fun, we have already scheduled another outing there:

Our next meetup to sketch will be a repeat at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden on Sunday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. Click [here](#) for more information. RSVP at vpa@llinova.org if you would like to participate.



Discounted Tickets to George Mason University (GMU) Center for the Arts Performances

Opera: "Carmen"

Starting July 1, register [here](#) to show interest in getting a group discounted price of **\$34 per seat** for Orchestra seating (regularly \$110) for the Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen" on Sunday, November 17, 2 p.m. – at GMU. **That price is available to LLI/NOVA members provided we commit to 20 tickets; the VPA coordinator, Anna Dixon, will contact you with the procedures for procuring the tickets.**

Other GMU performances

Starting August 1, when tickets go on sale to the public, LLI/NOVA members can go to the [VPA website](#) and 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) – 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.

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).

August 15: [Afternoon Tea at Mazadar Restaurant](#), 2:00—5:00 p.m.

11725 Lee Highway, Fairfax (Lee Plaza)



This is not your typical afternoon tea. This Middle Eastern and Mediterranean tea will include sandwiches, wraps, fruit,

vegetables, cheese, nuts, dips and sweets. And, of course, tea.

The cost is \$57 per person, which includes 6% tax and 20% gratuity. While the cost is a bit higher than some, please keep in mind this will be both lunch and dinner that day. There is free and convenient parking and no steps.



Register on LLI's website [here](#). Your payment by check or cash to Bonnie Hopley by August 8 will

guarantee your reservation. Please contact Bonnie if you have any questions.

August 19: [American Cryptologic History Tour](#) 8290 Colony Seven Rd., Annapolis Junction, MD

The [National Cryptologic Museum](#) provides entertaining, fact-filled tours (60-90 minutes long) of the museum, presented by current and former National Security Agency personnel. Learn about the role, people, and machines of America's cryptologic history through unique artifacts and stories.

We will meet at the museum at 10:30 a.m. The building is fully accessible and there are benches throughout the museum.

Register on the LLI website for self, spouses, and up to two non-member guests. LLI Coordinator: Ellen Wallace – 703-785-3824 (cell) or ephelan80@hotmail.com.

September 20: [O Street Museum in the Mansion, D.C.](#) –10:30 a.m.



This event has finally been rescheduled! This is a meetup at

10:30 a.m., cost \$30. See all the details about this immersive museum/hotel/showpiece with a focus on history and music legends [here](#)