



News & Views

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FORUMS: There is no Forum in August. See page 2 for preview of fall Forums.

President's Message --



A Few Good People

I'm donning my hat as Curriculum Chair this month so I can talk about one of LLI's biggest assets (our members) and one of our biggest challenges –filling leadership

positions. The fact that we have only one part-time paid employee (Janice Viola, who is terrific) means that everything else – the Board, the SIGs, the committees – are managed gratis by members like you and me. The great news is we have over 250 members who bring a plethora of expertise and interests to the organization. The challenge is recruiting folks to do certain tasks.

Perhaps the most important position in LLI is Chair of the Curriculum Committee. For several years Dick Robison worked indefatigably putting together three semesters of classes each year. His passing last summer was a great loss to LLI and to the Curriculum Committee in particular. Paul Hople and I have stepped into the breach to cobble together the spring and summer 2024 semesters along with our editors and coordinators. But with my moving on to my new post, I regrettably have to give up my position as Curriculum Chair. This leaves us with a huge hole to fill.

You may think that being the Curriculum Chair is a daunting task, but I'm here to convince you otherwise! Due to yeoman's work by Cathy Becker, Steve Cohen, Paul Hople, the editors (my brain trust: Phil Centini, Janet Liebenau, and Chris Suskiewicz), and, of course, Janice,

we have put in place procedures for approving classes and step-by-step instructions for coordinators to conduct in-person classes and Zoom classes. Experienced members are generally available to assist.

We have a stable of almost 30 members who are or have been coordinators. However, often the work falls on a minority of this group. So, we definitely need to recruit more coordinators. The other good news is that we have streamlined the online class proposal for prospective instructors to submit. They will now receive an automated reply informing them that unless they hear otherwise, their proposal is accepted and they will be contacted about scheduling days, times, and space for classes. The current curriculum group is also trying to establish other streamlined, repeatable procedures that can serve as guidance and be modified, if needed, as we go along. There is no right or wrong way.

All of this means easier work for those of you looking to help us. If you are interested in leading or sharing the lead of the Curriculum Committee, please contact me at pvolz63@gmail.com.

The most important thing to remember is you will not be alone. There are always people to help. In particular, Paul Hople and I are ready and willing to help advise or recommend paths forward. Our strength is our members!

Patti Volz
President, LLI/NOVA

Three Cheers for the Presenters!



Since the inception of LLI in 1996, the core of the organization has been providing stimulating educational opportunities for our members. We have been very lucky over the years to

have so many presenters share their knowledge, experiences, and passion at thousands of classes. Did you know that instructors receive no payment? However, it is a win-win situation; they have an outlet for their desire to share information, and we get the benefit of their knowledge.

At the beginning of LLI, classes were taught by LLI members (usually on subjects stemming from their careers, hobbies, travels, and other life experiences). As LLI grew, so did our need for more classes and a wider variety of topics. So, the Curriculum Committee, with the help of other members, searched for potential instructors through their network of friends, community, work, government agencies (e.g., U.S. Park Rangers), private agencies (e.g., AARP), Northern Virginia Community College professors and other employees, as well as other avenues. Today, this search continues in an ongoing effort to offer a robust curriculum.

Do you have some knowledge that you could share with everyone? Think about becoming a presenter. Do you know of others who could provide a thoughtful program? Encourage them to give a class. (Class proposals may be submitted online [here](#).) When you attend a class, do you thank the instructor for their efforts? As an attendee, don't be bashful about expressing your appreciation to the presenter. Lastly, take advantage of the many informative classes offered by registering for classes. However, if you find later you are unable to attend, please inform the coordinator.

---Arlene Gribben, LLI member since 2001

Fall Forums

In September, we will again start up our in-person Forums:

September 4: Our speaker will be our first LLI/NOVA Scholarship recipient (in 2000), Makan Shirafkan, who is now a lawyer. He stopped by and gave a 10-minute talk at our October 4 Forum last year, and we have invited him back to hear more!

October 2: Christopher Zimmerman, Music Director, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

November 6: The speaker will be John Wasowicz, a Virginia attorney and author of the Old Town mystery series. He will talk about his writing style and how his knowledge of the D.C. area grounds his mystery books, such as "Slaters Lane," "Roaches Run," and "Daingerfield Island."

Member Passing

Robert W. Rexrode, LLI member 2023 – 2024, died June 12, 2024. Obituary: [here](#)



"A Jew in Gaza: Humanitarian Assistance, Hubris and Horrors"

Monday, August 12, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
on Zoom. Details are available [here](#).

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



Our newest members:

- Ken & Shirley Massman
- Rakesh Tennamthotam

Community Outreach

Summer Food Pantry Needs



LLI does not meet in person in August, but we hope you will continue to be generous with donations to your favorite local food pantry. Their stocks of food go down in the summer. However, the needs of children, who usually get meals at school, are often unmet, and family needs continue.

Please send a check to a pantry or take food items to local churches and pantries that collect and distribute on a regular basis. The September Forum will resume a food collection in person. Thank you for your generosity!

– Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen

Study/Travel Program

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.

We extend our sincere condolences to Rod and Joyce Dyke on the tragic death of Rod's daughter. Out of consideration for their privacy during this difficult time, if you have questions regarding the January LLI trip to Australia and New Zealand, please consult a member of the Study/Travel committee (log into your LLI account, then click [here](#)), the [LLI website](#), or the [Grand Circle Travel website](#) for information.



LLI members at the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Alexandria. We had a guided tour that introduced us to many of the 600 world-changing Hall of Fame inductees and heard and read about stories of passion, perseverance, and progress.



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, 202-460-1270
- 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

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, August 7, and Thursday, August 22, 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 meeting in August.

POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – There will be no Foodies event in August. Foodies will meet again in September.

Mystery Books – We will not meet in 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, August 16, 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 – Tuesday, 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 POCs on page 3.

Visual and Performing Arts – Sunday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden. Join VPA members for another sketching outing. Click [here](#) for more information. RSVP at vpa@llinova.org if you would like to participate.

Did you miss a Zoom class?

Note that recent Zoom classes have been recorded for members to view on our website [here](#)!

Photography SIG photos taken in response to the theme "Green Spring Gardens Park," in April, May, and June. More Photography SIG photos are posted [here](#).



Photo by Richard Ackerman



Photo by Buck Myers



GMU Center for the Arts Tickets

Opera: “Carmen”

Discounted tickets are still available for the Virginia Opera’s production of “Carmen” on Sunday, November 17, 2:00 p.m. at GMU: **\$34 per seat** for Orchestra seating (regularly \$110). More information about seating, pre- and post-performance discussions, and the opera itself is available [here](#). The opera will be sung in French with English surtitles. Contact Anna Dixon (vpa@llinova.org) with questions.

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 here](#). Register for excursions as you would for an LLI class. Send trip ideas to Carol Fagnani (contact info online).

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 (includes tax and gratuity). While the cost is a bit higher than some, keep in mind this can be both lunch and dinner. There is free parking with no steps.

Register [here](#). Your payment by check or cash to Bonnie Hopley by August 8 guarantees your reservation. Contact Bonnie with 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 U.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.

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

Apply to be a 2024-2025 Social Host for an International Student by August 15 deadline

What is the CCI Program?

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program, sponsored by the U. S. Department of State and administered by NOVA, provides participants from underserved countries and underrepresented groups with a one-year, non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. Imagine the great benefits of studying abroad -- learning a new language, a new culture, and meeting new people! To help the students get acquainted with their new communities and facilitate stronger cultural understanding, the **CCI Program is seeking Social Hosts from the NOVA community, including LLI members, to host 30 highly-motivated students.**



The CCI students are from diverse backgrounds and come from countries most of us have never visited: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine. After completing the program, participants return home with new skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their country.

What does a Social Host do?

Once a month throughout the academic year, a Social Host and family spend time with their assigned student(s) to do fun and educational things, such as sharing stories, foods, and holidays; visiting museums; making cultural meals; and watching movies. There is no financial obligation. Social Hosts report getting as much out of these interactions as the students!



Apply to be a Social Host

If you are interested in taking advantage of this fulfilling opportunity, apply [here](#) no later than **August 15**. A meet-and-greet is being scheduled for the following week. Contact Anna Dixon at vpa@linova.org for more information.

Social Host Testimonials

"We had a life-changing experience as a host family. We watch the news so differently, now that we have hosted international students. In our family, we now have 'adopted children' who have a piece of our heart even as they live half a world away." - Kent

"My children are grown, and the students bring back great memories of dealing with young adults at such an exciting phase of their lives. Both students have taken to my wife, and we all look forward to our meetings, both on campus and in the community. I am planning to have them at my family's Christmas celebration, not only to have them experience an American celebration of this holiday but also to broaden the horizons of my children and grandchildren." - John