



# News & Views

Volume 28—Number 10

October 2024

## Wednesday, October 2 -- 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.

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## Interview with Maestro Zimmerman of the Fairfax Symphony



We have the unique pleasure of welcoming and interviewing Music Director Christopher Zimmerman, conductor of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) since 2009. Maestro Zimmerman has been a guest conductor with some of the leading orchestras around the world, including the Royal Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the Prague Symphony, the Slovak Philharmonic, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Mexico City Philharmonic, and the National Orchestra of Rio de Janeiro.

In 2011, Zimmerman was selected as the first-place winner in the professional orchestra category of "The American Prize in Conducting," an award for nationwide performances for conductors of all genres and categories. In addition, the FSO under his direction was

honored as the 2013 winner of a Washington Area Music Award (WAMMIE) for best classical orchestra. The Washington Post has praised him for making "the Fairfax players a serious force to be reckoned with."

A champion of contemporary music during his leadership with the FSO, Zimmerman has commissioned three new works and presented nine premieres. He graduated from Yale with a B.A. in Music, and received his master's from the University of Michigan. He also studied with Seiji Ozawa and Gunther Schuller at Tanglewood, and at the Pierre Monteux School in Maine with Charles Bruck.

This Forum will have an unusual format; Steve Cohen, Forum Committee Chair, will be asking Maestro Zimmerman specific questions related to his work, his experiences, and his life. Join us for this most interesting Forum!



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### After-Forum Lunch

Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at Giardino Italian Restaurant, 8944 Burke Lake Rd., Springfield. Patricia Brennan will host

## President's Corner



This month I want to note three major developments in our continuing quest for volunteers and participation. This is a volunteer organization, and it works best when we have many volunteers over which to spread the work and responsibilities.

There is something for everyone to do!

First, regarding the Curriculum Committee: I am thrilled to announce that Ellen Wallace will shadow me for the next semester, learning the ropes and sharing needed and valued opinions on how to improve the functioning of the Committee. Ellen has long been active as a coordinator and class attendee. She brings a much-needed perspective to the committee. We can't wait to get started! We could still use another person on the committee, so let me know if you're interested. Regarding class coordinators, we have a pretty good number but can always use more. The class catalog editors, my "brain trust" (Phil Centini, Janet Liebenau, and Chris Suskiewicz), are indispensable. One goal in the near future is to hold "how-to classes" for new and longstanding coordinators.

Second, Membership Outreach Committee: new member Adele Lynn is now working with chair Mary Alexander and committee member Derick Malis and is already writing articles and submitting them to various publications about upcoming LLI events, particularly Forums. We are very happy to have Adele on the committee but we are still looking for someone to fill Mary's chairmanship shoes. Please consider volunteering.

Third, our Cultural Excursions Committee also needs assistance. Chair Carol Fagnani is looking for help with both ideas and logistical details for our excursions. Many of you

participate in these terrific day trips, and every event requires planning. Consider helping out!

Our fall semester opened with a new instructor giving us a class on "Step One to Arabic." As a first-time coordinator for a class, I was glad to see the great turnout of about 20 people. The instructor was concerned that she didn't have enough material to fill the hour-and-a-half class, but the interaction between instructor and class turned out to be fantastic, and the class went over the allotted time by 10 minutes. Afterward, she told me how much she enjoyed the opportunity and is looking forward to teaching another class next semester. Class participants were encouraged to provide ideas for her to address. This class was an incredible way to way to kick-off the semester.

With the start of September, our 15-member Board of Directors is back in session with its monthly meetings and is ready to tackle our issues and challenges. As always, I encourage members to contact me directly by email with their concerns. While I can't guarantee an immediate response, I assure you I will respond. I know that some of our best ideas are in the minds of our members! And remember: **Our strength is our members.**

Patti Volz  
President, LLI/NOVA



### Our newest members:

- Jesse Aronson
- Lynn Bachenberg
- Julie Brimmer
- Allen Compito
- Sheila Ellis
- Jenny French
- Monica Generous
- Anh Ma

## Community Outreach

As you mark your calendar for our October 2 Forum, please include a reminder to do a little shopping for community outreach. We will be collecting items for [FACETS](#), a nonprofit serving our Fairfax neighbors experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty.



More than 2000 people a year receive food supplies from the FACETS food pantry. Items most in need at this time are cooking oils, corn and other flours, canned meats, foil packets of chicken or tuna, shelf-stable milk, and after-school snacks such as popcorn, fruit cups, and other healthy munchables. Diapers and pull-ons in sizes 5 and 6, and adult diapers in all sizes are also on the most-needed list. For a list of other items, please check out the website [here](#). We are grateful for any contribution that you can make. A special thank you to Paul and Bonnie Hopley for delivering our donations to FACETS, as they have so often in the past.

LLI/NOVA members showed their generous spirit in a big way last month. Our collection for ECHO at our September Forum weighed in at 148 pounds. And Betsy Pugin, who delivered the goods, promises she didn't lay a finger on that scale!

– Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen



### Winter Luncheon

Wednesday, December 4,  
11:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendar to attend LLI/NOVA's Winter Luncheon at the Country Club of Fairfax! Details will be included in next month's newsletter.



Point of contact is JoAnn Ackerman ([joannackerman22@gmail.com](mailto:joannackerman22@gmail.com)).

## LLI/NOVA Scholarships — Donations Have Tremendous Impact

LLI/NOVA scholarships sometimes have an outsized impact on their recipients' lives. At our September Forum we heard the incredible life story of our very first scholarship recipient, and how the scholarship provided him a critical confidence-building endorsement and the motivation to continue with higher education. Makan Shirafkin's talk was most timely, as the 2024-2025 LLI scholarship fundraising campaign is underway.



Since the program began, LLI has awarded over \$256,000 in scholarships to approximately 147 NOVA students. Members are encouraged to donate generously. To donate, click [here](#).

**Donations are welcome at any time but should be received by October 14 to count toward the 2024-2025 scholarship awards.**

Donations are tax deductible.

## Fort Hunt Film Festival

Every Friday night in October, a World War II movie is being screened



at Fort Hunt, Pavilion A, at 7:30 p.m. Each film will be preceded by a short lecture about how the film connects to Fort Hunt's history and disability history in the United States.

- October 4: The King's Speech
- October 11: Twelve O'Clock High
- October 18: The Best Years of Our Lives
- October 25: The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit

We were sent a special invitation to this film festival by Daniel Blier of the National Park Service, who recently gave us a virtual class on Fort Hunt history. For more info, including a number to call to learn if inclement weather is causing a film to be cancelled, click [here](#).

## Patriots' Basketball Anyone?

Who wants to join in the fun at George Mason's EagleBank Arena for a Patriots' basketball game? Ticket manager Taylor Bosket is offering discounted tickets for both men's and women's games -- \$15 for men's games, \$8 for women's -- to LLI/NOVA members.



Please contact Patricia Brennan ([patriciabbrennan@cox.net](mailto:patriciabbrennan@cox.net)) and indicate if there are particular games you want to attend.



### The Attack on Public Education

Speaker: Rob Boston, Americans United for Separation of Church and State

**Monday, September 30, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
on Zoom. Details are available [here](#).  
No registration required.



### 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](mailto:stbigman@gmail.com), 703-862-9323
- Luis Granados, Android devices: [granadoskerry@yahoo.com](mailto:granadoskerry@yahoo.com), 202-460-1270
- Andy Butler, available evenings and weekends: [abutler@pbs.org](mailto:abutler@pbs.org), 703-451-5834
- Fritz Ernst, a Mac specialist: [fritz\\_ernst@msn.com](mailto:fritz_ernst@msn.com), 703-569-3898
- Steve Malone: [steven69m@icloud.com](mailto:steven69m@icloud.com), 202-494-3773

## NOVA Northern Virginia Community College

### Lyceum Events

Annandale campus, room CA 302

#### **Hispanic Trends in STEM** **Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Speaker: **Aaron Dominguez**  
Provost, Catholic University

Dr. Dominguez aims to propel students toward a meaningful future.

#### **Uncover the Secrets of Bicycle Wheels** **Thursday, November 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Mr. William Mould  
Scientist, educator, wheel builder, avid rider

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



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



### **In Memoriam**

Chuck Klee passed away on September 10. He and his late wife Martie were long-time members of LLI. His funeral mass will be celebrated **Saturday, September 28, at 11:00 a.m.** at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Annandale. The service will be live streamed: <https://holyspiritchurch.us/funeral-live-stream-masses/>

## 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).

**Thursday, October 17: Belmont-Paul House, D.C. – 11:00 a.m. – Free**



The [Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument](#) has played a significant role in the U.S. women's suffrage and equal rights movements. From this house, suffragist Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party developed strategies and tactics to advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and equality for women. President Obama designated it as a national monument in 2016.

The building is not fully handicapped accessible at this time since the exterior lift is out of service. The museum is hopeful the lift will be repaired by October. There are 15 steps from the street to the entrance level. Inside the museum, all the exhibits are on one floor.

There is no cost. We will meet at the Belmont-Paul Monument at 11:00 a.m. The museum doesn't have a cafeteria, but there are many restaurants in the area. Lunch arrangements will be up to individual participants.

**Registration:** This event is open to members and guests. Please register [here](#) by noon on October 15 so that we know how many will be attending. Leader is Regina Rogers.

**Transportation:** The Belmont-Paul House is a short walk from the Union Station Metro stop on the Red line and from the Capitol South stop on the Orange, Silver, and Blue lines.

## A Fall Afternoon Tea Thursday, October 24, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Things I Love  
9084 Center St., Manassas



By popular request, we are returning to The Things I Love for a lovely afternoon tea. The menu changes monthly except for their signature chicken salad sandwich. The cost is \$40 per person and there is space for just 16 guests. You can register ([here](#)) on or before October 17 but your payment to Bonnie Hopley by cash or check by October 19 is your confirmed registration. There is street parking and a free parking garage nearby, but carpooling is recommended. The location is accessible with two steps at the entrance.

## A Holiday Afternoon Tea Tuesday, December 10, noon to 2:00 p.m.

Cherry Hill Farmhouse  
312 Park Ave., Falls Church



Join us for a delicious afternoon tea at this historic home in nearby Falls Church. The cost is \$48 per person and the menu includes sandwiches, assorted sweets, and warm scones. We will meet in the foyer for a welcome, enjoy tea in the dining room, and then tour the house.

There are a couple of handicapped parking spaces and free parking is in a nearby community center lot. There is a ramp to the first floor for the tea, but the tour to the second floor is not accessible to those with mobility issues.

Register [here](#) on or before November 25. Your payment to Bonnie Hopley by cash or check by November 27 is your confirmed registration.

## Foodies & Friends

Friday, October 11, 1:00 p.m.

[Milano's](#), 6230-G Rolling Rd., Springfield



Milano's Family Restaurant has been proudly serving the Northern Virginia area since 1980, bringing you the best in Greek, Italian, and American cuisine. Jimmy and Cathy Goranitis immigrated from Krokees, Greece, in 1976 with a dream of making a better life for themselves. Through hard work and determination, they opened Milano's in 1980. Milano's started off as a small restaurant, and as its popularity increased, grew from 64 to 180 seats. Their menu includes salads, pizzas, subs, and, of course, Greek and Italian specialties.

Separate checks will be provided and there is ample parking with accessibility to the restaurant. The restaurant is in the shopping center on Rolling Road with the clock tower. Pat and James Harrison are our hosts for this event. RSVP to them at [pjharris80@msn.com](mailto:pjharris80@msn.com) or 703-962-3587 by COB Friday, October 6.

### LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

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

### LLI Newsletter Committee

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

## Photo SIG Pictures

September's theme was "Vehicles." Broadly defined, a vehicle is any means in or by which someone travels or something is carried or conveyed. More Photography SIG photos are posted [here](#).



*Photo by Buck Myers*



*Photo by Richard Martin*



*Photo by Steve Brown*

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

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

**POC** = Point of Contact

**Bridge – Wednesday, October 9, and Thursday, October 17, 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, October 17, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Bonnie Hopley's home**  
"Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See (historical fiction).

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

**Foodies & Friends – Friday, October 11, 1:00 p.m.** See article on page 6 for details.

**Mystery Books – Monday, October 7, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL**

Our October book is "Dead Mountain" by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child. On November 4, we'll review "No Man's Land" by David Baldacci. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

**Photography – Friday, October 18, 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](mailto:hbm@hbmphoto.com)

**Tabletop Games – Tuesday, October 22, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL.**

On November 26, we will have a trivia challenge!

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mlbednarsky@gmail.com](mailto:mlbednarsky@gmail.com)

**Visual and Performing Arts –**

**Opera: "Carmen"** – Due to LLI member demand, additional discounted tickets have been made available for Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen" on Sunday, November 17, 2:00 p.m. at GMU. Tickets are **\$34 per seat** for Orchestra seating (regularly \$110). More information is available [here](#). Contact Anna Dixon ([vpa@lilnova.org](mailto:vpa@lilnova.org)) with questions.

LLI/NOVA members can go to the [Visual and Performing Arts 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.
- [110 in the Shade](#) – 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.

### Did you miss a Zoom class?

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