



News & Views

Volume 28—Number 12

December 2024

Winter Luncheon



Wednesday, December 4, 11:00 a.m.
Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Rd., Fairfax

November 29 is the NEW deadline to purchase tickets ([here](#))



11:00 a.m. Reception/cash bar

12:00 noon Enjoy camaraderie with fellow LLI members over sit-down lunch (choice of entree).

We'll collect new, unwrapped toys for children under the care of [Bethany House](#).

Questions? Contact JoAnn Ackerman, joannackerman22@gmail.com.

Upcoming Forums

There will be no Forum in December, but here is a sneak peek at the next three Forums, which will be on **Zoom** (❄️ avoiding winter driving):

January 8: David Tucker from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will discuss efforts to protect the bay and revive wildlife. Tucker was inspired to pursue a career in environmental conservation following his participation in a CBF field trip in fourth grade. He joined the CBF in 2016.

February 5: Our speaker's grandfather was a warden at Alcatraz, the "island of many mistakes." Having learned much from his grandfather's stories, Michael Stewart will share perspectives about the "Rock" – inmates, staff, families, escape attempts, and more.

March 5: Learn about best practices to keep ourselves safe online. Our speaker will be Dr. Richard Forno, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is a principal lecturer and Assistant Director of UMBC Center for Cybersecurity. He has a strong interest in the influence of technology on national security, individuals, and global society.



Happy
Thanksgiving

President's Corner



As we enter our winter break, just a few comments:

First, I hope to see many of you at our Winter Luncheon on December 4 at the Country Club of Fairfax. It is always nice to see members and their friends outside our normal classroom venues.

Also, the country club never lets us down! We are continuing our tradition of collecting new, unwrapped toys for children under the care of Bethany House. This continues our spirit of outreach to the community and to NOVA/Annandale, as we routinely do with our monthly Forum collections. Thank you!

Our survey team, chaired by Vice President Patricia Brennan, is currently evaluating the results of our recent online LLI survey. We hope to glean valuable feedback about our forums, classes, and events that will improve our overall operations. Thanks to all participants. Results will be published in the **January newsletter**.

We continue to improve the overall operating procedures for the Curriculum Committee. Ellen Wallace has provided much needed knowledge and energy to the committee, greatly helping me as its chair. We will continue to work hard to offer classes that satisfy your interests. The winter/spring catalog will be published in the next couple of weeks. Please sign up for anything that attracts your interest or helps you discover things you don't already know! Suggestions? Please contact us.

On behalf of the entire Board, enjoy the holiday season and come back in January ready to volunteer and participate. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact me at pvolz63@gmail.com.

Remember: Our strength is our members.

Patti Volz

President, LLI/NOVA

Critical Need: Secretary of LLI Board

In November we unexpectedly lost long-time LLI member Gina Trapp to illness (see In Memoriam on page 6). Gina served LLI/NOVA in a variety of positions over the years, and had been serving as secretary of the Board for the last two. She will be sorely missed!

We need someone to fill the secretary's position as quickly as possible for the rest of the term (June 2025), at which time the incumbent can run for a full term. For more information, feel free to contact any of your Board members (listed in the box on page 5) or email me (pvolz63@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer. It would be a big help to us, and you might really like it! The Board is a nice group of people, and we actually have fun doing our work.



—Patti Volz, President

Thanks to our Scholarship Donors!



Many thanks to LLI members who helped make this another successful year — LLI just provided \$18,500 to the NOVA Educational Foundation to fund

the following scholarships:

- Two LLI Academic
- One LLI Leadership
- One LLI Lorin Goodrich Academic
- One LLI Knox Singleton Leadership

The scholarships range from \$3,500 to \$4,000. Over the next few months, the Foundation will select students who meet the academic and financial criteria for these awards. Recipients will be second-year students at the Annandale campus for the 2025-2026 academic year. These scholarships will make a big difference in their lives. Thank you for your generosity!

Help Wanted!

Are you interested in travel and helping to choose LLI's next trip? Our Study/Travel Committee is looking for a new chairperson. Rod Dyke, who reinvigorated this committee after its Covid hiatus, is stepping down.

LLI/NOVA's Study/Travel Program provides members (and their friends and families) with the opportunity not only to participate in group travel to fabulous locations worldwide, but also to learn about the area they are going to visit prior to the travel.

The Study/Travel Committee:

- Manages the trip selection process;
- Negotiates with the tour provider or travel agent to finalize tour dates, itineraries, options, fees, and registration procedures;
- Monitors member registration and assists in the resolution of travel issues with the vendor;
- Often leads the trip (i.e., serves as the LLI/NOVA group point of contact with the travel vendor); and
- Develops, and often conducts, the study program for the selected travel, and coordinates with the Curriculum Committee for inclusion of our Study/Travel class(es) in the class catalog.

If you are interested in taking on this fun and rewarding opportunity, please contact Patti Volz at pvolz63@gmail.com. For questions about the Committee, contact Rod Dyke at rd2222@aol.com or 703-328-1660.

Study/Travel Program – POC Rod Dyck
(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.

Foodies & Friends

Thursday, December 12, noon
[Trattoria Villagio](#),
7145 Main St., Clifton



Please join Foodies & Friends as we revisit Trattoria Villagio, an Italian favorite in the heart of Clifton. This restaurant combines the casual elegance of a Roman-style restaurant with the fun and bustle of an Italian train station. It brings authentic flavors of Italy to your table. The chefs use traditional recipes and the freshest ingredients to create a dining experience that transports you straight to the heart of Italy, where every meal is a celebration of great food, great wine, and great company. The restaurant is particularly known for its hand-crafted pasta dishes. Buon Appetito! There is ample parking (street and lot) and the restaurant is accessible. Separate checks will be provided. RSVP to our host, Mindy Rojahn, at 703-966-9889 or mindyroj@cox.net no later than Tuesday, December 10. Hope you can join us!



Gil Bowman and Anna Thimblin at the opera Carmen at GMU Center for the Arts. Discount tickets were made available for LLI members, and 30 people took advantage of this membership benefit.

New Member

Welcome to our newest member, Maxine Cohen. We're happy to have you!



Cultural Excursions

Register for these excursions as you would for an LLI class. Registration will be available when the winter/spring semester opens for signup. If you are interested in carpooling or sharing an Uber, please contact the tour leader to get names of others who may want to participate.

Send trip ideas to Carol Fagnani (contact info online).

David Taylor Model Basin

Thursday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.,
Carderock, MD

Guided tour of the David Taylor Model Basin. We will learn how the U.S. Navy tests models of its ships for seaworthiness. David Taylor Model Basin is one of the largest test facilities for the development of ship design in the world. It is a field activity of the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. **Note:** stamina is required to walk two miles, including stairs, without rest.

This is a meetup and is limited to members only because the maximum number of participants is 10. There is no cost. Trip Leader is Patricia Brennan.

Chocolate Tasting and Tour

Saturday, March 29, 2:00 p.m., Chantilly

Taste five samples of chocolate made at River Sea Chocolates in Chantilly. You will get to observe the production and see the machinery for making small-batch bean-to-bar chocolate. This tour is recommended for adults only.

Purchase your ticket at your earliest convenience on the venue's website at <https://www.riverseachocolates.com/> to ensure it's not sold out. On their website, select **Tasting Flight and Tour** for \$25 for March 29 at 2:00 p.m. After purchasing your ticket, register on the LLI website so we may get a head count. Maximum of 16 for this public tour. This is a meetup. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Trip Leader is Ellen Soroka.

LLI Tech Team

The following LLI/NOVA members are available to assist with tech issues:

- 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

Note from our Forum Speaker

Author John Wasowicz emailed this to our president on November 5, after giving a much-enjoyed talk at our Forum:

“Patti: It was such a pleasure meeting you and spending the morning with the group. Thanks for the certificate, which I will proudly hang in my study tonight! Take care, stay healthy, and keep doing all the wonderful things the group is handling. JW”



A Note to Chef Cal's 2024 Class Attendees

Thank you for your support all year long. We have had a wonderful year with unique and exciting classes... I enjoyed seeing the spirited interaction among class members.

Dot and I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving, and all the best in the coming Holiday Season. There is nothing like having family and friends sitting around a large table and breaking bread together.

I will see you all in 2025 when we present another session of new and exciting classes.

— Chef Cal

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, December 18, 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 – No meeting in December. POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Thursday, December 12, noon. See article on page 3 for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, December 2, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

Our December book is “No Exit” by Taylor Adams. Our book for January 6 is to be determined.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, December 20, 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 – No meeting in December. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Visual and Performing Arts –

LLI/NOVA members can go to the [Visual and Performing Arts](#) section of the LLI website and use our specially designated code to purchase \$15 tickets to the following performances:

- [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? Recent Zoom classes have been recorded for members to view on our website [here!](#)

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

President: Patti Volz

Vice Pres: Patricia Brennan

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Richard Sigman

Past President: Derick Malis

Administrator: Janice Viola–

Contact at admin@llinova.org

Members:

Richard Ackerman,

Mary Alexander,

Cathy Becker, Andy J Butler,

Debbie Cohen, Steven Cohen

Fritz Ernst, Carol Fagnani,

Richard Martin, Ed McKnight

LLI Newsletter Committee

Chair: Cathy Becker, cz.becker@verizon.net

Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan



In Memoriams

Gina Trapp – LLI Board member and Board Secretary Gina Trapp passed away on November 1. She had been a member of LLI since 2004, after a former member gave her a year’s membership as a retirement gift. She quickly became very active in LLI and soon became a highly valued member and leader. She joined the Curriculum Committee in early 2005 and served on that committee for 13 years, two as committee chair. Also in 2005, she joined the LLI Board of Directors and served as secretary for three years. She later served two additional terms on the Board. She returned to the Board as its secretary in 2022 and served until her recent illness in 2024. She was one of the original members of the Automation Committee in its early years and served three times on the Nominating Committee.

A graduate of Misericordia University in Dallas, PA, Gina taught high school English for a year before moving to Northern Virginia. She worked for 30 years for the Inspector General at the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a writer/editor. She was a speechwriter for the Inspector General and was in charge of reports to Congress that highlighted instances of fraud, waste, and mismanagement of government funds.

After retiring, among other activities, Gina volunteered at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington helping to “socialize” cats and arranging for adoptions. She loved cats, and her furry kitty Bella was a great friend to her. Gina was an enthusiastic Boston Red Sox fan and displayed a few Red Sox emblems on her car. Gina will be greatly missed.

Kathy Hall – LLI 1998-2023, died September 23, 2024. She and her husband Clint, who died in 2016, were both long-time members. Kathy chaired the Winter Luncheon one season and was a core member of the knitting classes.

Victoria Blackman – LLI 1999–2024, another of LLI’s longest serving members. She was an active participant in the Bridge SIG from 2010 to 2020.



Photo by Charlotte Rosenfield; taken at Green Spring Gardens