



News & Views

Volume 29—Number 1

January 2025

Wednesday, January 8

LLI/NOVA FORUM VIA ZOOM

Social Zoom: 9:30 a.m. Announcements: 9:50 a.m. **Forum Presentation: 10:00 a.m.**

(Click the link in the upcoming email announcement)



Save the Chesapeake Bay!

David Tucker, Director of Development for the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF), will speak about efforts to protect the Bay and save its wildlife. He joined the CBF in 2016. This was fitting, as he had been inspired to pursue a career in environmental conservation after a CBF field trip while in fourth grade! He went on to major in environmental science and policy at the University of Maryland.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, founded in 1966, is the largest independent conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Bay. Its motto, "Save the Bay," draws people and communities together to reduce pollution throughout the Chesapeake's six-state watershed. For decades, the Chesapeake Bay has been on the list of the nation's "impaired waters" because of nutrient-pollution problems that compromise the entire ecosystem. Serving as a watchdog, the CBF fights for effective, science-based solutions to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution that degrades the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. Since 1998, CBF has tracked the health of the bay through its annual State of the Bay report. ***Join us for this Forum on Zoom!***

NOVA President Thanks LLI for Scholarships



We hope you enjoy reading these excerpts from a recent letter to us thanking us for funding NOVA student scholarships:

“Thank you and all our friends at Lifetime Learning Institute of NOVA for your support of the Northern Virginia College (NOVA) Educational Foundation with this gift of \$18,500.

This fall, almost two-thirds of NOVA students ... attend part-time — balancing work and family responsibilities with advancing their dreams of college degrees. We know that every day our NOVA students stop at nothing in their commitment to advancing their lives through higher education because they know that this is the path to meaningful careers with family-sustaining wages. We are there for them. You are there for them too! ... Your contributions enable our students to achieve their academic and professional goals... Thank you for your commitment to higher education and to the value of a community college education. Your friendship and support mean more than you can know.”

Anne M. Kress, PhD, President, Northern Virginia Community College, and
Kelly Persons, Executive Director, NOVA Foundation

President's Corner



A very Happy New Year to everyone in our LLI/NOVA family! We have much to look forward to in 2025. LLINOVA is in a pretty healthy place, but we still need new members to offset those who have not returned after the Covid pandemic. Let's all make an extra effort

to recruit folks this winter and spring. If you learn of anyone wanting more information about LLI, feel free to pass them my email or that of any member of the Board. Also, in order to make the organization all it can be, I urge everyone to volunteer in any way to contribute to LLI. We aren't seeking experts, just people willing to help out. And, the more volunteers, the less there is to do for any one of us.

As you probably know from email sent to you by our administrator, Janice, the **winter/spring class catalog is out and registration is open**. The Forum Committee is finalizing our Forum presenters for the rest of the year and we have some very interesting lectures coming up, including one on Alcatraz by someone whose grandfather worked on the island! Also, Cultural Excursions and Visual and Performing Arts are offering some excellent spring outings and shows.

The primary glaring gap we have at the moment is someone who can serve as Board secretary until June. (See box to the right). This is a short-term, not-very-time-consuming commitment, and you could really help us out.

As always, if you have an issue or question that I can address personally or in this format for the whole organization, please email me at (pvolz63@gmail.com).

Remember: Our strength is our members!

Patti Volz
President, LLI/NOVA



Registration for Spring Classes is Open

The Winter/Spring 2025 class catalog is out (see the link under News Alert on the right side of our [homepage](#)), and registration is open. There are 46 classes in the catalog with topics including history, health, writing, cooking, poetry, reincarnation, and others. There's something for everyone, with a mixture of in-person and Zoom offerings. Please be sure to take a look at the catalog and sign up early. We're looking forward to an exciting semester!

Note To All Class Coordinators: There are currently 15 classes in need of a coordinator. Please review the catalog and sign up as soon as possible to fill vacant coordinator slot(s) if you are able. Thank you.

LLI Secretary Needed

The LLI Board needs someone to step in to serve as its secretary *immediately* through June. Duties consist of taking minutes at the Board meetings, which are held on the second Friday of each month from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Zoom recordings of the meeting can be referred to as needed for clarification.

For more information, contact any of your Board members (listed in the box on page 6) or email Patti Volz (pvolz63@gmail.com)



Community Outreach



A new year is ripe with possibilities, but one probability is that we'll have some cold weather.

If you're homeless or living in a vehicle, you probably have a yearning for a hot meal, a safe place to put down bedding, and a chance for some warm clothing or laundry help.

Since 2005, the [Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program](#) has helped ensure that no homeless person has to sleep outside from December 1 through March 31. This partnership among Fairfax County, nonprofits, and about 45 faith communities continues as you read this.

One of the nonprofits that helps coordinate this effort is FACETS. They work with congregations to provide meals and a place to sleep overnight. In addition to its support of this program, FACETS provides food, housing, medical outreach, financial literacy, and more. Helping neighbors is what they do. You, too, can help neighbors in need by donating [online](#) or by mailing a check to FACETS, 10700 Page Ave., Building B, Fairfax, VA 22030.



If you see someone who is unsheltered and may be at risk of hypothermia, call the Fairfax County non-emergency police at 703-691-2131. A police officer will respond and conduct a wellness check. If the individual is in distress, call 911.

Encore Learning; online via Zoom

Rep. Don Beyer: Taking on Challenges
Monday, January 13, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Details are available [here](#). No registration required.

LLI Collaboration with AARP

Since fall 2022, LLI/NOVA has been purchasing increased Zoom capacity for three courses per semester so that AARP members can participate in the courses on Zoom along with LLI members. The number of participants at these joint classes generally exceeds our usual Zoom plan, which covers only 100. For some of these classes we've had close to 300 participants! Therefore, in late 2024, LLI/NOVA and AARP Virginia signed an agreement to continue this collaboration and for AARP to donate funds to LLI/NOVA to cover the increased Zoom costs.

This collaboration offers both LLI/NOVA and AARP an opportunity to publicize their organizations. At the beginning of such courses, an officer of the LLI/NOVA Board gives a short presentation about LLI/NOVA's activities, and AARP does the same for theirs. Since some of the participating AARP members live in Northern Virginia, this is a way for us to recruit new members and encourage AARP members to consider teaching future LLI courses.

LLI Member Survey

The LLI/NOVA Board wants to know what its members think about the organization. What's your opinion of the classes, Forums, Special Interest Groups, outings, trips, and annual events? Can we make the group's offerings even better?

To find out, we recently encouraged you to take an online survey. We thank everyone who responded and provided a wide range of comments. The Survey Committee -- Patricia Brennan, Fritz Ernst, Richard Sigman, Carol Fagnani, and Janice Viola -- is in the process of analyzing your responses. Survey results will be presented to the Board and published in an upcoming newsletter.

Foodies & Friends

Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m.

[Carnegie Diner and Café](#),
501 Maple Ave. W, Vienna



It's a new year and that means it's the perfect time for Foodies & Friends to gather at a new restaurant and enjoy a delicious meal with old friends and meet new ones. We're going to the [Carnegie Diner and Café](#) located at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Nutley Street in Vienna. The Carnegie is a modern diner with New York ties. It opened in Vienna in May 2024 and has wonderful, classic deli favorites, serving all-day breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner. The menu includes omelets, pasta, seafood, burgers, waffles, salads, sandwiches, and more. And save room for a slice of 24-layer chocolate cake or cheesecake. This is the first diner in America serving a full plant-based menu.

We hope you'll make a New Year's resolution to come to lunch, and we'll toast the new year together. Carnegie offers separate checks, plenty of parking, and promises you won't leave hungry! To RSVP, contact Mary Gauthier by January 13 at GauthierMary@msn.com or leave a message at 703-272-7719. See you there!

Our newest members:

- Vanessa Anderson
- Deborah Brown
- Gary Stultz



Cultural Excursions

Register for these excursions as you would for an LLI class (see links below). 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).

Valentine's Day Tea

Thursday, February 13, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

By popular request, we are returning to [Café Renaissance](#) for a lovely afternoon tea to celebrate Valentine's Day together. The cost is \$52 per person (includes tax and gratuity). There is space for 25 guests. You can register on or before February 4, but your payment to Bonnie Hopley by cash or check by February 6 is your confirmed registration. There is free parking in the shopping center, but carpooling is recommended. The location is accessible, having no stairs. Register [here](#).



David Taylor Model Basin

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

Details and registration for this trip may be found [here](#). 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

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 [here](#) 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.

Splendid Annual Winter Luncheon



To see luncheon photos, click: [here](#)

As always, the Country Club of Fairfax was festively decorated for the season, and a delicious sit-down lunch was served. We were very fortunate to have several Fairfax County officials as our guests: Board Supervisor Jeff McKay and Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, both of whom made brief and informative remarks; and Penny Gross, retired Mason District Supervisor. Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw planned to attend but canceled due to illness.

LLI President Patti Volz presented the first Meritorious Service Award to Mary Alexander for her long-time service on the Board, instructing numerous classes, chairing our Membership Outreach Committee, and promoting growth of LLI membership to its pre-pandemic level through various media outlets.



The second Meritorious Service Award went to Patti V's "brain trust," consisting of Phil Centini, Janet Liebenau, and Chris Suskiewicz for: "stepping up and producing a semester of classes after the loss of our chairman. For years of indispensable work behind the scenes receiving, editing, and cataloging our courses for each semester. And for patience and diplomacy shown dealing with instructors and the curriculum chair."

Many thanks

A special thanks to our dedicated luncheon chairman, JoAnn Ackerman, who made this event an unqualified success. She wishes to thank all the LLI members who volunteered their time and services:

- Janice Viola, for guidance, nametags, and greeting guests. Cathy Becker, for table decorations and greeting.
- Bob Huley, for setting up easy online registration with credit card payment, tracking attendee count and entrée choices.
- Fritz Ernst, for taking photos.

- Mary Alexander, for treating guests as they arrived in the lobby to her lovely piano playing; also, for inviting our Fairfax County Board of Supervisor guests.
- Dick White, fellow artisan friend of JoAnn's, for donating ceramic pieces that were given to one lucky diner at each table.
- Pastry Xpo in Mosaic District, for preparing the delicious mango cake and tiramisu desserts.
- Country Club of Fairfax, for a lovely meal in a splendid setting, and courteous service.
- Attendees, for the donation of many toys which were collected for Bethany House.



Bonnie Hopler Braddock District Citizen of the Year



On December 4, LLI's long-time member Bonnie Hopler was awarded the "Citizen of the Year Award" for the Fairfax County Braddock District. Supervisor Walkinshaw read

the nomination certificate, which focused on Bonnie's many activities helping others.

The long list of Bonnie's accomplishments include: 20 years serving LLI (coordinating classes, greeting members, and providing hospitality); providing support for children of the community and being involved in multiple other programs through her church, Parkwood Baptist; and working with FACETS and the Lamb Center to provide services and hot meals to residents in need. Bonnie also participates in a women's bowling league, travels with her husband Paul, and is a member of various book clubs. **Bonnie, you make us proud!**

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

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

Australia & New Zealand

It's not too late to join our trip to Australia and New Zealand (group air departs Dulles on January 8). See the [LLI/NOVA Study/Travel Program webpage](#) for full details.

Committee chairperson needed

Are you interested in travel and helping to choose LLI's next trip? Our Study/Travel Committee is looking for a new chairperson.

More information about the committee and its responsibilities may be found [here](#). 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 Dyck at rd2222@aol.com or 703-328-1660.

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

LLI Newsletter Committee

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

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Thursday, January 9, and Wednesday, January 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 – Thursday, January 23, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

"The Wager" by David Grann (nonfiction). POC Lynne Smaldone, lynne.smaldone@gmail.com

Foodies & Friends – Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m. See article on page 4 for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, January 6, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

Our January book is "Elevator Pitch" by Linwood Barclay, a fast-paced novel that moves as quickly as a falling elevator. You won't want to miss this discussion! For February, we will be examining the book "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides. Please join us for a lively discussion.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mlbednarsky@gmail.com

Photography – Friday, January 17, 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, January 28, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL.

We will be playing Swoop, a game we have played before that accommodates many players. We will introduce our new players to this fun game!

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:

- [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.

