



News & Views

Volume 29—Number 7

July 2025

There will be no Forums in July or August. Next Forum is September 3.

President's Message



While we will not be holding Forums in July or August, please add the dates of our upcoming fall Forums to your calendar. All three of the Forum speakers were suggested by YOU, LLI members. We truly

appreciate hearing from you. Don't hesitate to send me your recommendations for Forum speakers and class instructors, or simply your general comments. "Our Strength Is Our Members," so keep those ideas coming!

September 3: American Mythology and the History of Arlington House

National Park Service ranger Daniel Blier will join us again to talk about the historic Arlington House, which is practically in our backyard and which is of special interest to him. His Forum on Fort Hunt a couple of years ago was very well received, and he is back by popular demand.

October 1: Fairfax County Animal Rescue

Jennifer Toussaint, an experienced canine control officer, will discuss her work. Her talk promises to be fun and interesting. She was recommended by one of our members.

November 5: George Washington and His Quest for Honor and Fame

Peter Henriques, Professor of History, Emeritus, GMU, has specialized in studying the life of George Washington and is author of several books on our first president.

Dr. Henriques was the 2012 winner of the George Washington Memorial Award given by the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association. He will be bringing copies of his new book for sale. He, too, was recommended by one of our members.

Thanks to all of you for your support this past year. I am looking forward to playing your president for another year.

Patti Volz (president@llinova.org)
President, LLI/NOVA

Annual Membership Meeting

Prior to our Forum speaker's presentation on June 4, LLI conducted a brief annual membership meeting. The Budget committee presented the budget as detailed in last month's (June) newsletter to the LLI membership. Then 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, as shown in the updated credits box below:

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors	
President: Patti Volz	Members:
Vice Pres: Patricia Brennan	Richard Ackerman,
Secretary: Bill Tuceling	Mary Alexander,
Treasurer: Richard Sigman	Cathy Becker, Andy Butler,
Past President: Derick Malis	Debbie Cohen,
	Steven Cohen, Fritz Ernst,
Administrator: Janice Viola—	Carol Fagnani, Ed McKnight,
Contact at admin@llinova.org	Ellen Wallace
LLI Newsletter Committee	
Chair: Cathy Becker, newsletter@llinova.org	
Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan	



Summer Days

While LLI summer classes are currently in full swing, we still have many stimulating and enjoyable in-person and Zoom classes scheduled in July and August. Topics include: Fossil Hunting in England; a travelogue on Istanbul & Turkey; Fairfax County Emergency Alerts & Cable; Self-Publishing Essentials; You and the Supply Chain; Trump, China, & the Struggle for Leadership in Asia; and others. Be sure to look at the Class & Event Calendar [here](#), and sign up!

Science and Espionage Seminar

(Fort Hunt World War II History)

Saturday, July 26, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Our friend, Fort Hunt Park Ranger Daniel Blier, invites us to join this **free** virtual history seminar. Daniel has been one of our fine LLI class/excursion/Forum speakers and will also speak at our next Forum (September 3).

In this seminar, he will be hosting two authors who have written about the U.S. endeavor to bring hundreds of German scientists and engineers to America in the decade after WWII. They'll share interesting details of German scientists being assigned American Jewish intelligence officers who were born in, and escaped from, Germany, and whose task was to convince, in their fluent German, the scientists to live in the United States.

Click [here](#) to register; Zoom link will be emailed. Registration is required; 60 seats available.

Welcome New Members

- Cal & Dotty Kraft - LLI gifted a one-year membership as a thank you for the many years Cal taught cooking classes for LLI (with Dotty as his sous chef)
- Ruth Ruttenberg



Security – We’re on It!

To increase security and privacy, we are now avoiding publishing personal email addresses when referring to POCs in both the newsletter and the parts of our website that are open to the public. This way, nonmembers can continue to read and learn about us (and **join** us!) and we can protect our members’ privacy.

How are we doing this? Several ways:

- We’ll say, “Contact [Jane Doe](#)”, where the underlined name is a **link**. Clicking on it takes you to the LLI login page for you to enter your LLI ID/password, and then the member directory immediately opens. Type in the last or first name of the POC, click on the person you want, select “contact” tab, and you’ll see phone/email information.
- Alternatively, we might say “Contact Jane Doe ([see member directory](#)).” Then, if you are not already signed into the LLI website, you can go to “Member Area” to sign in, and then to “LLI/NOVA Member Directory.”
- **“Proxy” email addresses** for SIG chairs and certain LLI positions. Let’s say Jane Doe is the chair of the Cinema SIG. Instead of saying “Contact Cinema SIG chair Jane Doe, [JaneDoe@gmail.com](#)”, it will say “Contact Jane Doe, [cinema@llinova.org](#).” This is a “proxy” address that will automatically forward your email to Jane Doe’s personal email.

On the SIG page of this newsletter, you will see these new proxy email addresses (created and maintained by our LLI Administrator Janice) that conceal the personal email addresses of these POCs, and yet get your email to the right person.

So, we thank you for **your patience** whenever you need to sign in to get a POC’s email address in order to RSVP for Foodies or for a cultural excursion or for other fun events. We hope you can appreciate our effort in limiting the distribution of personal information in this day and age!

Community Outreach



Although we won't meet in person in July or August, we hope that you will continue your generous giving by making a direct contribution to one of our local food pantries.

One suggestion is to donate to Food for Others, a regional food bank serving the community since 1995. Recent USDA budget cuts directly impact the availability of emergency food for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. In 2024, 27 percent of Fairfax households struggled to afford healthy, nutritious groceries. Food for Others distributed more than 3.8 million pounds of food to 64,218 individuals, serving as a much-needed safety net for the community.

You can make a monetary donation online at foodforothers.org/donate-now/, donate food at its Merrifield warehouse (foodforothers.org/give-food/), or make a planned gift through your estate (foodforothers.org/planned-giving/)

Help us join hands in serving our community.

– Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen

NOVA Annandale Workshop

Korean art; paper flower making (Jihwa)



Tuesday, July 8
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., CA 302

- A master artist will guide participants
- Free vegetarian lunch
- Open to all members of the NOVA community/LLI

Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Foodies & Friends



Wednesday, July 16 – 12:00 p.m.

[Lazy Dog Restaurant](#),
11963 U Fair Oaks Shopping Center

It's the lazy days of summer, so join Foodies & Friends at the Lazy Dog Restaurant. Lazy Dog was inspired by mountain adventures, an enduring love of food, and fireside conversations. The restaurant sources ingredients from places and farmers that are loved and respected. Every meal is made by hand each day, including all of their sauces, marinades and dressings. The café has a seasonal menu, which is its ode to the current season, and where they celebrate Mother Nature's beautiful bounty. [Mary Williamson](#) is our host for this event. Please respond to her by email or phone by July 14 if you plan to attend. Separate checks will be provided and parking is easy. The restaurant is accessible and located next to Dave & Buster's.

Wanted: Book Drive Coordinator

After several years as coordinator of LLI's annual Children's Book Drive, I am stepping away from that position. I would like to thank all those who contributed so generously over the years. A book can make such a difference in a child's life, and we have donated more than 800 to R.E.A.D., an organization whose mission is to reach children in need from birth to five years of age.

I am hoping that someone will come forward to take over coordinating the drive. Rest assured that I and others would be ready and willing to assist you. If you are interested, please contact me, [Lynne Smaldone](#),

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, July 2, and Thursday, July 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 Martin Stutsman, bridge@llinova.org

Cinema – Wednesday, July 23, approximately 12:00 p.m. at Cinema Arts Theatre in Fair City Mall, Fairfax. Let POC Patricia Brennan (cinema@llinova.org) know to add you to email list.

Favorite Books – The Favorite Books SIG will not meet in July or August. POC Lynne Smaldone, favoritebooks@llinova.org

Foodies & Friends – Wednesday, July 16, 12:00 p.m. See article on page 3 for details.

Mystery Books – The Mystery Books SIG will not meet in July or August. On September 8, we will review “The Boyfriend” by Freida McFadden. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mysterybooks@llinova.org

Photography – Friday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at KPL. New members are always welcome. Cell phone cameras are fine. POC Buck Myers, photo@llinova.org

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

We will be playing “Mexican Train.” POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, tabletopgames@llinova.org

Visual and Performing Arts – Discounted Tickets at GMU Center for the Arts

Another season of great deals on tickets for LLI members is right around the corner! For \$15 (plus a \$4 service fee) per seat, LLI members may purchase tickets for any available seat at selected performances at George Mason University Center for the Arts. (Note that tickets may also be purchased in person at the box office, where no service fee is charged.) These tickets are a remarkable value compared to full-price orchestra seats.

Discounted tickets for LLI members and their guests will be available for purchase with our discount code beginning on August 1. The code will be posted on the LLI/NOVA website in the members-only section.

These are the shows and dates for which this discount will apply:

- [Academy of St. Martin in the Fields](#) – Friday, October 3, 8:00 p.m.
- [Papermoon Puppet Theatre: Puno, Sewing Memories](#) – Saturday, October 4, 2:00 p.m.
- [Hubbard Street Dance Chicago](#) – Saturday, October 25, 8:00 p.m.
- [Limón Dance Company](#) – Saturday, November 1, 8:00 p.m.
- [360 ALLSTARS](#) – Saturday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.
- [Mark Morris Dance Group & Music Ensemble](#) – Saturday, February 7, 2026, 8:00 p.m.
- [Virginia Opera: Intelligence](#) – Sunday, February 15, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
- [Les Ballets Africains](#) – Friday, February 20, 2026, 8:00 p.m.
- [Mnozil Brass](#) – Sunday, March 1, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
- [Circa: Humans 2.0](#) – Sunday, April 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Cultural Excursions

For details about each trip, please go to the [LLI Class Registration Calendar](#). **Members and guests must register on the LLI website to participate in the trip.** These are all meetups. If you are interested in participating in a carpool, whether as a driver or passenger, contact the Trip Leader, who will coordinate and share names of those looking to carpool. For general questions or to suggest an excursion contact: culturalexursions@llinova.org.

Anderson House Tour – Free

Thursday, July 10, 1:00 p.m., Dupont Circle

We will tour the Anderson House, a National Historic Landmark, and headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati. Anderson House's first owners, Larz and Isabel Anderson, were a wealthy couple who devoted their lives to public service, travel, entertaining, collecting, and philanthropy. Their interests and activities are reflected in the couple's art collection and their furnishings that are on display. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc., is a center for education that is dedicated to promoting understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution and its legacy.

Meet at Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Directions, parking, and Metro information is on the Society's website [here](#). Anderson House is wheelchair accessible.

Register [here](#) by June 23. Trip Leader is [Regina Rogers](#).

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens Tour – Free, Tuesday, July 22, 10:30 a.m., D.C.

We have planned our visit when the beautiful lotus flowers and water lilies are in peak bloom. Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens is a National Park located in the District of Columbia.

We will be given a ranger-led walking tour of the gardens and we will learn the park's

history, about the wildlife found along the Anacostia River, and the flowers blooming. The tour will take place over a 1.5-mile route and visitors should be prepared to stand and walk in both sunny and shaded areas. We recommend that you bring a hat and water. The paths around the pond are not paved. Surfaces are uneven and may be muddy.

We will stop at the visitor center, which has exhibits about the history of the park.

For additional information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm>. Trip Leader is [Carol Fagnani](#).

National Rifle Association Museum Tour – Free, Tuesday, August 12, 10:30 a.m., Fairfax

The [NRA National Firearms Museum](#) has been described by visitors as surprisingly interesting and entertaining. The museum displays a fascinating history of firearms, with nothing political in its displays. The museum covers 600 years of firearm history, from the Mayflower to the Revolutionary War, and all the way to modern weapons. There is a special section for "Hollywood guns," the actual guns that were used in making movies and TV shows by John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, Charlton Heston, Tom Selleck, Sylvester Stallone and other famous actors. There's also a display of weapons from old-time show people like Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody. The guns are nicely displayed in either full-view floor-standing glass cases or recessed exhibition windows in the walls, and everything is clearly labeled and annotated for history buffs to see.

Trip Leader is [Carol Fagnani](#).

Hopkins University Museums Tour – \$134 Tuesday, August 26, 9:00 a.m., Baltimore

This trip, offered through Fairfax County Park Authority, is full. Interested participants may add their name to the waitlist [here](#).