



# News & Views

Volume 29—Number 8

August 2025

**There will be no Forum in August. Our next Forum is September 3.**

## President's Corner



You may think that the Board and I have taken advantage of the summer slowdown to relax, but actually it's been a good time to explore a few ideas we hope will make LLI/NOVA more fulfilling and satisfying for our members.

We'll have more information on these in the September newsletter. Broadly, they include our considering:

- Producing some type of "What's Happening" bulletin every week or two
- Simplifying the registration process for both in-person and Zoom classes
- Having a "Members' Trips" section in the newsletter where those of us who are independently arranging to travel with tour and cruise companies can tell fellow members about their upcoming trips and how to sign up for them. This could facilitate LLI members traveling with each other and essentially replace the official (inactive) Travel Committee.

As always, if you have comments/suggestions, please let me know.

Remember: **Our strength is our members!**

Patti Volz ([president@llinova.org](mailto:president@llinova.org))  
President, LLI/NOVA

## Fall 2025 Classes

The Fall 2025 Class Catalog will be available in just a few weeks. Watch for an email blast announcement, and get ready to sign up! Our lineup of many exciting classes include "The Golden Era at the Washington Post" by former Washington Post journalist Bob Levey. Also, there will be variety of classes on arts, nature, health, taxes and the markets, assistive technology for the deaf/hearing impaired, history (including the Japanese surrender and the end of WWII), pirates, classic and new seven wonders of the world, practical artificial intelligence, micro and nanoplastics risks, nuclear arms control, and the state of the US economy. Be sure to pore over the catalog when it arrives, and sign up early!



## August classes

Summer is not over, even if we wish the hot weather were! There are still a number of LLI classes in August.

Sign up, beat the heat, and relax in a stimulating class.

**Welcome to our newest member,**  
Sue Perry

## Interview Attire Wanted

Here's a great decluttering opportunity. Go through your closets, and bring to our September 3 Forum professional clothing and accessories you'd like to donate to NOVA's "Clothing Closet," which helps students with attire for job interviews.



The coordinator of this new project is Sterling Smith, the Recruiting Programs Manager, NOVA Business Engagement & Career Services. Smith has discovered that, among other things, young men are needing neckties -- but often don't know how to deal with them and have to be taught!

Smith prefers items to be gently used and dry cleaned, if possible, or new. The following are samples of Items that are helpful:



- Suits, collared shirts
- Dress shoes, new dress socks
- Ties, belts, other accessories
- Pants, skirts
- Blazers, cardigans

Keep in mind that the students won't want "grandparently"

clothing, so be reasonable about what we bring for them. Drop off your donations at the front of the church (LRUCC, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale) as you arrive for our September 3 Forum, which begins at 10:00 a.m.

## Wanted: Book Drive Coordinator



After several years as coordinator of LLI's annual Children's Book Drive,

[Lynne Smaldone](#) is stepping away from that position. Please contact Lynne If you are interested in taking on this rewarding role.

## LLI Potluck Picnic Rescheduled

Due to extreme heat on June 25, our long-planned picnic was postponed. It is now rescheduled for:



**Monday, October 6, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**[Roundtree Park](#)**

3320 Annandale Rd., Falls Church

Come join the fun! All members/guests need to register (by October 3) to attend, even if you had already registered for the June date. LLI will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, and condiments. There is a \$10 per-person fee that will be collected on site. Click [here](#) for details/registration and to sign up to bring a potluck side dish and to help with tasks like grilling, cleanup, and more.

## Cultural Excursion

**National Rifle Association Museum Tour –**

**Free, Tuesday, August 12, 10:30 a.m.**

11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax

**Members and guests must register on the LLI website [here](#) to participate in this trip.**

Interested in carpooling? Contact trip leader [Carol Fagnani](#). General questions/suggestions, contact: [culturalexursions@llinova.org](mailto:culturalexursions@llinova.org).

Visitors describe the [NRA National Firearms Museum](#) as surprisingly interesting and entertaining. It tells a fascinating history of firearms, with nothing political in its displays. The museum covers 600 years of firearms history, from the Mayflower to the Revolutionary War to modern weapons. There is a special section for "Hollywood guns," which includes the actual guns used in making movies and TV shows by John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, Charlton Heston, Tom Selleck, Sylvester Stallone and other actors. There's also a display of weapons from old-time show people like Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody. Everything is clearly labeled and annotated for history buffs to see.

## Community Outreach

Since there isn't an in-person Forum in August, the Outreach Committee suggests continuing your generous giving by making a direct contribution to one of your favorite charitable organizations.



One local organization that can use our help is ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), which has been serving the Burke and Springfield areas of Fairfax County since 1969. ECHO consists of approximately 26 religious congregations and 400 volunteers. Day-to-day operations are handled by an all-volunteer support team. There are no paid staff, so all funds raised go to meeting the needs of the community. ECHO fulfills emergency needs for food and financial aid. Client families are also offered three appointments per year to come in and choose clothing and household items that help them stretch their earnings. ECHO does not give money directly to clients, but pays pharmacies, utility companies, landlords or other vendors directly on behalf of clients.

Monetary donations can be made to ECHO, Inc. by check, Paypal, or credit card. See the ECHO website [here](#) for details.

See the website [here](#) for a list of requested items, as well as a list ([here](#)) of some non-profit organizations that might be able to use items that ECHO cannot accept. An ECHO wishlist on Amazon is available [here](#).

We are so grateful for the outstanding generosity of our LLI members!

– *Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen*

## Foodies & Friends

Friday, August 15 – 12:30 p.m.

[Pazzo Pomodoro](#),

118 Branch Rd. SE, Vienna



The owners of Pazzo Pomodoro say that “creativity is at our core, and we push ourselves every day to explore new ways to cook, serve, and share. Our chefs are constantly coming up with new weekly specials, and we love sharing our creations with you!” Pazzo Pomodoro, which means “The Crazy Tomato” in Italian, is a cantina-style concept, offering homestyle Italian meals featuring seasonally fresh ingredients from its local garden at affordable prices. Please join Foodies & Friends to explore delicious Italian fare. Our host is [Edie Berman](#). RSVP to her by August 11 and join us for a fun lunch. Parking is plentiful, the restaurant is accessible, and separate checks will be provided.

### LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>President:</b> Patti Volz  | <b>Members:</b>             |
| <b>Vice Pres:</b> Patricia Brennan                                  | Richard Ackerman,           |
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| <b>Administrator:</b> Janice Viola–                                 | Carol Fagnani, Ed McKnight, |
| Contact at <a href="mailto:admin@llinova.org">admin@llinova.org</a> | Ellen Wallace               |

### LLI Newsletter Committee

**Chair:** Cathy Becker, [newsletter@llinova.org](mailto:newsletter@llinova.org)  
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 – Wednesday, August 6, and Thursday, August 21, 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](mailto:bridge@llinova.org)

**Cinema – Wednesday, August 27, approximately 12:00 p.m. at Cinema Arts Theatre in Fair City Mall, Fairfax.** Let POC Patricia Brennan ([cinema@llinova.org](mailto:cinema@llinova.org)) know to add you to email list.

**Favorite Books** – The Favorite Books SIG will not meet in August. POC Lynne Smaldone, [favoritebooks@llinova.org](mailto:favoritebooks@llinova.org)

**Foodies & Friends – Friday, August 15, 12:30 p.m.** See article on page 3 for details.

**Mystery Books** – The Mystery Books SIG will not meet in August. On September 8, we will review “The Boyfriend” by Freida McFadden. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mysterybooks@llinova.org](mailto:mysterybooks@llinova.org)

**Photography – Friday, August 15, 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](mailto:photo@llinova.org)

**Tabletop Games – Tuesday, August 26, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL.**

Game is to be determined. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [tabletopgames@llinova.org](mailto: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 is posted on the LLI/NOVA website [here](#). You must be logged in to view it.

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.