



# News & Views

Volume 29—Number 9

## September 2025

### Wednesday, September 3 -- 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.

*Tell Steve Cohen if you have a joke to share for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"*

### American Mythology and the History of Arlington House



We open our 2025-26 Forum season with a talk by our friend **Daniel Blier** of the National Park Service, who has previously been an LLI and Forum speaker. You may remember Daniel’s talk two years ago on Fort Hunt, which addressed a fascinating and little-known secret of the park.

Daniel will explore American mythology and the history of Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial located within Arlington National Cemetery. His presentation will explore three stories about the Arlington House that were used to hold America together. He will share why and how each fell apart. Daniel will weave the rich mythology about this site with actual history.

Daniel has been employed by the National Park Service since 2020. He has been stationed at Fort Hunt, Great Falls, and Arlington House. Outside of work, the avocation most meaningful to him is reading and writing about philosophy and literature. Daniel also hosts roundtables on historical issues throughout the year, which are free to the public.



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**After-Forum Lunch:** The after-Forum lunch will be at [Silverado](#), 7052 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

### Hyperlinks to POC names

In our newsletters, names of people who are points of contact (POCs) are underlined to indicate a hyperlink. Just click on the underlined name to sign into our website and find the POC’s email in our member directory.

## President's Corner



Well, here we are kicking off our 2025-2026 season with our first in-person Forum and the start of fall 2025 classes. I want to welcome and encourage all of our members to get back in the swing of participating in our classes and events and in helping with the day-to-day operations of LLI.

Don't miss our September 3 Forum featuring Daniel Blier of the National Park Service (see page 1). If you are a new member, please seek out Board members and introduce yourselves! We wear green badges to differentiate ourselves.

A couple of months ago I mentioned that the Board was exploring a few new initiatives. For the past several weeks, Vice President Patricia Brennan and I have been issuing a weekly "What's Happening" email to keep you up-to-date on upcoming classes and events. This makes it much easier to register and participate in events and classes that you may have missed or forgotten about. The coordinators' names are included so it is easy to contact them. We know it's not perfect, and we welcome any comments you may have.

Patricia has also arranged for our first collection (at the September 3 Forum) of clothes to be donated (through NOVA's "Clothing Closet") to NOVA students to wear on job interviews. See article on page 3. The Annandale provost, Diane Mucci, is very grateful for our support of this effort.

Our LLI/NOVA Scholarship drive is also starting (see article on the right). The funds that we donate to a few worthy students have a big impact and further strengthens our ties to NOVA Annandale.

Because the weather did not cooperate with us in June, we rescheduled our outdoor summer picnic and BBQ for October 6, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Registration is still required [here](#). (See article on page 4). I hope to see lots of you there!

Finally, registration for our fall curriculum is open. And please keep in mind that we are always looking for volunteers and new members, and each of us can play a role. As always: **Our strength is our members!**

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

## LLI/NOVA Scholarships



Did you know that LLI's scholarships make a big difference in the lives of the NOVA Community College awardees? These awards help cover the cost of annual tuition (\$6,000 for in-state, \$12,000 for out-of-state). Total annual costs per student range from \$22,000 to \$34,000 when housing, books, and other fees are included.

Our annual LLI Scholarship fund drive is currently underway. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000, which will help us do more for students with both academic and leadership scholarships. Recipients are determined by the NOVA Foundation, and the scholarship funds are sent directly to the students' accounts toward tuition.

**NOTE:** There is an anonymous challenge grant in effect: after \$7,500 is raised, \$2,500 will be added. At \$15,000, an additional \$2,500 will be added. If we reach our \$20,000 goal, a final \$2,500 will be added!

Easing financial needs on students is an investment in America. Let's be part of this and donate generously, which can be done by check or online—click [here](#).

-- [Steve Cohen](#), Scholarship Committee Chair

## Interview Attire Wanted

Help declutter your closet by bringing to our September 3 Forum any gently used and clean (or new) professional clothing and accessories for NOVA's "Clothing Closet." These donations will help students to acquire attire for job interviews. The following items are especially 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 you 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. Socializing and clothing dropoff begin at 9:30 a.m.

## Class Registration begins August 25

The new [fall catalog](#) contains some exciting classes, including "The Golden Era at the Washington Post" by former Washington Post journalist Bob Levey, a variety of classes on art and 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 nano plastics risks, nuclear arms control, and the state of the US economy. **Please be sure to take a look at the catalog and sign up!** Classes start with the September 5 class on holistic medicine and integrated healthcare.

## Community Outreach

# facets

building  
stronger futures  
FOR 35 YEARS

We are looking forward to seeing your smiles, face-to-face, at our September 3 Forum! If you can, please bring an item or two to donate to this month's community outreach charity, [FACETS](#) (Fairfax Area Christian Emergency and Transitional Services). They provide emergency shelter and life-saving services to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by offering basic needs assistance and comprehensive case management.

Since 1988, FACETS has grown to become one of Fairfax County's largest non-profits, helping people pull themselves out of a crisis and setting them on a path to success. Your contribution of non-perishable items will help restock emergency pantries. Non-perishable grocery items, household and cleaning items, baby items, and personal hygiene items are needed.

A heartfelt thank you to Paul and Bonnie Hopley for once again delivering our donations to FACETS after the meeting.

**One last note:** Starting in October, Betsy is searching for a volunteer to join her on the Community Outreach team. The duties are light and you will have a sense of doing something to help your community. To help out, please contact [Betsy](#).

– Betsy Pugin and Susan Jagen

## Welcome to our newest members

- Mark Kiernan
- Deborah Mullan
- Gary Sampson
- Sara Sukol



## LLI Potluck Picnic

**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 original 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 Excursions

### Tour The Falls Church – Free

Friday, November 7, 10:30 a.m. to noon  
166 East Broad Street, Falls Church

Join us on a tour of The Falls Church, an historic church that was established in 1732. Both George Mason and George Washington were elected vestrymen of the church. The brick church building, completed in 1769, remains in use today. The church served as a recruiting station during the American Revolution. It was used as a federal hospital during the Civil War.

This event is open to members and guests. Register on the LLI website. There is no cost, but contributions are welcome and will be applied to maintenance of the church.

Meet at the church. For parking information, see the church's website [here](#). The historic church entrance is on South Washington Street (Route 29).

The church is wheelchair accessible.

Trip Leader: [Regina Rogers](#).

### Tour of Historic Blenheim – Free

Thursday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.,  
Fairfax City.

A guided tour of Historic Blenheim offers visitors the chance to see graffiti written on the walls over 160 years ago by hundreds of Union soldiers during the Civil War. Visitors will learn the stories of some of the 127 identified soldiers who signed the walls as well as the story of the people who lived there during the war. The tour will be 1.5 hours and will involve walking uphill to the historic house from the Civil War Interpretive Center.

Click [here](#) for detailed information and registration.

Trip leader: [Bill Tuceling](#)

### Afternoon Tea at The Things I Love – \$45

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
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 \$45 per person (includes tax and gratuity).

There is street parking and a free parking garage nearby, but carpooling is recommended. The location is accessible with two steps at the entrance.

Your registration is confirmed once your payment by cash or check is received by Susan O'Boyle. First come, first served. November 10 is the deadline for your payment to be received. There will be no refunds. However, if you are unable to attend, you may transfer your registration on your own. Notify Susan of your replacement's name and contact info.

Meet in front of the venue a few minutes before 1:00 p.m. Contact [Carol Fagnani](#) for Susan's contact info (she is not in our member directory).

## Foodies & Friends

Friday, September 19 – 12:00 p.m.

[Yindee Thai](#)

8412 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield  
(Shopping center at Old Keene Mill and Rolling Roads,  
between Trader Joe's and Walgreens)



According to the owners, the word Yindee has many meanings in the Thai language. Most often it is translated as a feeling of appreciation and happiness. They named their restaurant Yindee Thai because they feel it perfectly embodies their passion towards their customers. They aim to provide their guests with the most welcoming atmosphere possible, where customers enjoy not only their meal, but also the experience. The extensive menu includes vegetarian options. Our host this month is [Janet Goodrich](#). RSVP to her by Tuesday, September 16. Parking is easy and separate checks will be provided. The restaurant is accessible. There is a class at NOVA Annandale that morning so this is a perfect way to conclude your day and meet up with friends! We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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

**POC** = Point of Contact

**Bridge – Thursday, September 4, and Wednesday, September 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](mailto:bridge@llinova.org)

**Cinema – Wednesday, September 24, approximately 12:00 p.m. at Cinema Arts Theatre in Fair City Mall, Fairfax.** Let Patricia Brennan ([cinema@llinova.org](mailto:cinema@llinova.org)) know to add you to the email list.

**Favorite Books – Thursday, September 18, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. at KPL**

Our choice for September is “The Small and the Mighty” by Sharon McMahon (nonfiction).

POC Lynne Smaldone, [favoritebooks@llinova.org](mailto:favoritebooks@llinova.org)

**Foodies & Friends – Friday, September 19, 12:00 p.m.** See article above for details.

**Mystery Books – Monday, September 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL**

We will review “The Boyfriend” by Freida McFadden. For our October 6 meeting, we will discuss

“Man in the Water” by David Housewright. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [mysterybooks@llinova.org](mailto:mysterybooks@llinova.org)

**Photography – Friday, September 19, 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, September 23, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. at KPL.**

Please make a note of the time change for this one meeting. We will meet at 2:00 p.m.

Game is to be determined. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, [tabletopgames@llinova.org](mailto:tabletopgames@llinova.org)

### LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

**President:** Patti Volz

**Vice Pres:** Patricia Brennan

**Secretary:** Bill Tuceling

**Treasurer:** Richard Sigman

**Past President:** Derick Malis

**Administrator:** Janice Viola–  
Contact at [admin@llinova.org](mailto:admin@llinova.org)

### Members:

Richard Ackerman,

Mary Alexander,

Cathy Becker, Andy Butler,

Debbie Cohen,

Steven Cohen, Fritz Ernst,

Carol Fagnani, Ed McKnight,

Ellen Wallace

### LLI Newsletter Committee

**Chair:** Cathy Becker, [newsletter@llinova.org](mailto:newsletter@llinova.org)

Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan

## 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 are available for purchase with the discount code 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 applies:

- [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.



*Cottswolds Cottage by Matt Burns, Photo SIG member*