



News & Views

Volume 30—Number 6

June 2026

Wednesday, June 3 -- LLI/NOVA FORUM

LOCATION: Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale
Socializing starts at 9:30 a.m.



9:45 a.m. Membership Meeting/Election of Board

Forum Presentation: 10:15 a.m.



NOVA Annandale Campus Updates

Once again, LLI/NOVA is very pleased to welcome the Provost of NOVA Annandale, Dr. Diane Mucci, to our June forum. A highly respected faculty member, Dr. Mucci has dedicated herself to serving and developing as an academic leader focused on equity in student success and advocacy for her colleagues. NOVA Annandale works to improve economic and social mobility while developing individuals with academic excellence and the capacity to lead with empathy. Dr. Mucci will discuss the current issues facing NOVA and her position specifically, in responding to both current challenges in education and the day-to-day challenges to her students. At past LLI Forums she has shared how she has handled intergenerational learning and how students

themselves have gradually tended to limit their on-line presence. She has also relayed success stories of individuals who have benefitted from learning approaches and opportunities at NOVA.

Dr. Mucci has the strong track record of academic and community engagement that is essential to the role of provost. She has served on advisory boards for George Mason University's Science and Technology Campus, George Washington University's Health Sciences programs, and the Osbourn High School Governor's STEM Academy of Innovations in Manassas. She is a graduate of Leadership Prince William and has led community enrichment events for NOVA, including the NOVA Aerospace Summer Academy, for which she received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals. We are excited to hear Dr. Mucci's insights on the challenges and rewards of being a leader in higher education.

After-Forum Lunch

Join fellow LLI members for lunch and conversation at [Silverado](#),
7052 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

Patricia Brennan will host.



Website Woes

As you know, our website has experienced several technical and functional issues recently. We continue to work on restoring it and some basic functionality has been reestablished. We will release more functionality as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience as we continue working with technical support to overcome the website's issues.

Fall Class Proposals

LLI website issues include the inability to access the link for submitting class proposals.

If you know of instructor(s) who may be interested in teaching a class for LLI for our fall semester, please ask them to send an email expressing their interest to ephelan80@hotmail.com. They will receive a reply with instructions for a temporary workaround, which needs to be submitted by the **deadline of July 10**. Thank you very much for helping us spread the word!

Please Attend Our Short Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 3 at 9:45 a.m.

We'll vote on the slate of officers for the Board (see bios in the May newsletter), as well as on the budget shown on page 6. Forum speaker presentation will commence at 10:15 a.m.

The five candidates to serve three-year terms ending June 30, 2029 are: Andy Butler, Patti Volz, Fritz Ernst, Ellen Wallace, and John Sullivan.

Officers nominated to serve a one-year term are Patti Volz (President), Steve Cohen (Vice President), Bill Tuceling (Secretary), and Richard Sigman (Treasurer).

Community Outreach

The June 3 Forum will be our last in-person food drive until September, so let's keep up the



great momentum. You have brought quite a food collection to deliver to the beneficiaries at the Forum each month. Thank you!

In June, we will collect for another awesome group, the [Arlington Food Assistance Center \(AFAC\)](#). AFAC receives referrals from Arlington Public Schools and other partners and then distributes food to about 4200 families each week. They receive no federal or state funding, and they have a huge number of volunteers.

Most needed items at our food collection for AFAC are the following: low sugar cereal, peanut butter, and canned items such as fruits, tuna, soups, tomatoes, and vegetables. Also, with summer coming, plastic-bottled water is needed.

Just a note for full disclosure regarding the May collection: Although we advertised it to be for the NOVA Nighthawks campus pantry, there was a communication problem and we were unable to deliver there. However, we did contact the John Lewis High School Leadership program, and they were delighted to receive the collection. They have some special student events coming in May and June and will put it to good use.

Thank you on behalf of so many.

Betsy Pugin and Debbie Omori

President's Corner



Since June is election month, I'm opting out of my normal "corner." One of the truly rewarding experiences I have found as an LLI member is when an instructor thinks of us when involved in another

activity. We have made an impact on them, and usually they have made an impact on us. Reva and Bob Savkar are two such instructors. Bob taught a very popular four-part class a couple of semesters ago and Reva has lectured before and will be teaching a four-part series next fall. They have been on extended travel and sent us this (with minor editing, and their permission) from a trip to Japan.

We visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to pay our respects – a 120,000-square-meter park in central Hiroshima dedicated to the legacy of the 1945 atomic bombing. It is very, very moving, and really reaches us deep inside. The Japanese are not vengeful, not angry, not bitter, but are truly focused on the



deep resolve of approaching, addressing, and solving problems with compassion, understanding, and humanity.

An eternal flame, brought from a flame that has burned for centuries from a nearby mountain Shinto Temple, is visible as you look through the Memorial Cenotaph onto the UNESCO-listed Genbaku Dome (A-Bomb Dome). The Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park honors the young girl Sadako Sasaki, features a statue of her holding a golden paper crane, representing her and all child victims of the atomic bombing.

She was two years old when the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. She had no apparent injuries and grew into a strong and healthy girl. However, nine years later, she suddenly developed signs of leukemia and was admitted to the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. Believing that paper cranes would help her recover, she



kept folding paper cranes until her passing.

Sadako's death triggered a campaign to build a monument to pray for world peace and the

peaceful repose of the many children killed by the atomic bomb. Approximately 10 million paper cranes are offered each year before the Children's Peace Monument. Along with others on our tour, we made and donated 1000 Cranes. 🦋 Reva & Bob

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

It's Picnic Time Again!

After our wildly successful potluck picnic last year at Roundtree Park, we'd like to organize another one for 2026. Anyone



interested in planning and/or helping with the event, please contact [Carol Fagnani](#) or [Mary Alexander](#). Any kind of help will be welcome. Many hands make for light work!

Cultural Excursions

Contact [Carol Fagnani](#) with any questions.

Ball-Sellers House Tour – Free

Wednesday, June 17, 11:00 a.m., Arlington.

The Ball-Sellers House, built in 1750, is the oldest structure in Arlington County. It is on the National Register of Historic Sites and it is designated a Virginia State Historical Landmark. The house has been restored to its condition from the colonial era. Free, but contributions are welcome. Details [here](#). Trip leader is [Regina Rogers](#).

Greeting Cards for our LLI Friends

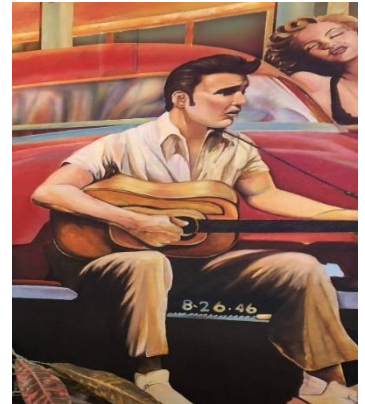
Do you know an LLI member who might appreciate receiving a greeting card with get-well wishes, sympathy, “thoughts of you,” or other supportive words from LLI? If so, contact [Arlene Gribben](#).

Foodies & Friends

Thursday, June 11, 12:30 p.m.

[Jukebox Diner](#),
7039 Columbia Pike,
Annandale

Join Foodies & Friends as we slip back in time for lunch at the Jukebox Diner. The diner’s atmosphere and food will bring back memories of places you may have eaten at as a teenager. Relax as you listen to 50’s sock hop music playing in the background. (And no one will judge you if you dance.) See memorabilia of that era, including a painting of Elvis playing his guitar. Individual checks will be provided. Your hostess is Arlene Gribben, arlenegribb@aol.com, 703-569-0357. RSVP by June 7. There is plenty of parking and the restaurant is accessible. The restaurant is at the corner of Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive in Annandale.



Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, June 10, and Thursday, June 25, 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@llynova.org

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

Our selection this month is “Everything I Learned, I Learned at a Chinese Restaurant: A Memoir” by Chin Curtis. No meetings in July and August.

POC Lynne Smaldone, favoritebooks@llynova.org

Foodies & Friends – Thursday, June 11, 12:30 p.m. See article above for details.

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

We will discuss “Resurrection Walk” by Michael Connelly. No meetings in July or August. See you in September! POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mysterybooks@llynova.org

Photography – Friday, June 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@llynova.org

Tabletop Games – Tuesday, June 23, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

We will play Bunco. POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, tabletopgames@llynova.org.



Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 LLI Budget

LLI's Bylaws require the Budget and Finance Committee to “develop a budget for the next fiscal year” and “present it to the Board of Directors for its review and approval.” LLI's next fiscal year starts July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2027. The committee reviewed recent financial activity and requested that committee chairpersons project their needs for the coming year. From that information and projected income, the committee developed a draft budget and presented it to the Board of Directors on May 8. After discussion and adjustments, the budget shown on the following page was approved by the Board.

The FY 2027 budget projects that expenses will exceed income (revenue) for the year, requiring that the difference be provided from our Operations Fund, a reserve fund that contains surplus income from earlier fiscal years when income exceeded expenses. This situation is a direct result of our post-Covid membership numbers continuing to decrease, while expenses increase. Membership fees provide our primary source of income, but rather than increasing them at this time, the committee recommended that LLI use our Operations Funds as an interim solution while we continue to strive to increase our membership. This is a measure taken for FY 2027 while we emphasize the importance of every member trying to recruit new members. Our efforts to recruit new members have met some success, but unfortunately, we have lost other members. The continued health of our organization depends on increasing our membership. Everyone is encouraged to recruit new members.

In addition, our Bylaws require that “After approval by the Board, this committee shall present the budget to the LLI membership at the annual meeting.” The annual meeting is on June 3 in conjunction with our Forum. The budget presentation will include a brief Q&A session. If you have a question about the budget, you can submit your questions ahead of time by emailing them to fritz_ernst@msn.com.

In summary, the budget projects income of \$35,223 and expenses of \$40,182, resulting in a shortfall of \$4,959, requiring a draw from our Operations Funds. A breakdown of income and expense categories is shown in the following table. Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar for the summary.

Fritz Ernst, Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee



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	

Approved LLI FY 2027 Budget Summary

Item	Amount
Revenue	
40000 Membership Dues	\$ 30,000
45013 Other Income - Donations	\$ 500
45200 Class Fees	\$ 832
46000 Interest Income	\$ 3,891
Total Revenue	\$ 35,223
Expenditures	
50000 Operating Expenses	
60000 Administrative Staff	\$ 29,909
60050 Membership Outreach	\$ 500
60200 Software	\$ 2,150
60500 Honoraria	\$ 450
60600 Insurance	\$ 1,673
61020 Forum Rental	\$ 1,200
61100 Office Supplies	\$ 983
61300 Outside Printing	\$ 100
61400 Postage/Bulk Mail	\$ 100
61500 Teaching Materials	\$ 800
61715 Web site maintenance	\$ 1,000
61725 Credit card expense	\$ 900
Class fees credit card expenses	\$ 32
Total 61725 Credit card expense	\$ 932
61800 Refreshments	\$ 300
70000 Miscellaneous	\$ 35
Total 50000 Operating Expenses	\$ 40,132
51000 Other Expenses	\$ -
65000 Taxes and Fees	\$ 50
Total 51000 Other Expenses	\$ 50
Total Expenditures	\$ 40,182
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (4,959)