

Wednesday, September 2 -- 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"

International Trade, Tariffs, & Trade Deficits: Facts & Fiction

We kick off our fall Forum season with a very timely presentation by former U.S. Trade Negotiator James Wallar. Mr. Wallar will address the issues associated with the many twists and turns of trade policy, including the misconception that exports are good and imports are bad. During this time of general economic instability with the Federal Reserve, tariff policies, and import/exports, this promises to be a very interesting talk.

Mr. Wallar has worked on economic, trade, fiscal, and finance policy in both the public and private sectors. He had a distinguished career at the U.S. Treasury Department, first as an economist with the Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, then as Deputy Director of the Development Policy Office, and finally as Director of the Office of Trade Policy. Notably, he worked to develop trade policies, including negotiating bilateral and regional trade positions on NAFTA, and for the final Uruguay Round, which established the World Trade Organization. In 2009, Mr. Wallar was the U.S. Treasury Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, where he led a group of civilian and military experts that provided technical assistance to the Finance Ministry and Central Bank.

After retiring from the U.S. government, Mr. Wallar served as an economic consultant focused on Southeast Asia. In the private sector, he has served on USAID's Leadership in Public Financial Management II Project and USAID's ASEAN-U.S. Technical Assistance and Training Facility at the ASEAN Secretariat.

After-Forum Lunch — Join fellow LLI members for lunch at [Tony's NY Pizza](#) in the Twinbrooke Shopping Center, 9569 Braddock Rd., Fairfax. It has a wide variety of pizza (both New York-style and deep dish—by the slice or whole pies), pasta, sandwiches, and subs. Steve Cohen will host.

Welcome, New Members

- Dr. Eric Freiwald
- Ms. Maryanne Fontaine

**POC Information**

Underlined names are points of contact (POCs). Click on them, sign into our website, and find the POC's contact information in our member directory on our website, llinova.org.

President's Corner: Curiosity



I've been thinking about what differentiates LLI/NOVA from some of the other lifelong learning groups. Obviously, we are smaller and affiliated with a community college rather than a four-year college or university. But one word keeps

popping into my mind: curiosity. We are a naturally curious group of people and our interests are incredibly widespread. This is reflected in the courses and excursions we offer.

Of course, we offer classes you'd see elsewhere – history, current events, national park service, science, etc. But many of our most popular classes are non-traditional things such as “Is the Sky Really Blue?” (the answer is, well, it depends); “Fighting Chronic Pain with Trigger Points”; “Chemistry Matters” (think food, little known female chemists, forever chemicals); “Hemingway a Writer, Sailor and a Spy” (what!?!); travel logs by a professional cruise lecturer; “Religions, Myths, and Supernatural Belief Systems”; and a number of well-attended classes taught by our own members. These unusual subjects tend to attract a lot of students.

I love that we are willing to try new classes, even if we may initially think we won't particularly like them. I have felt this way about some offerings, and have usually ended up being pleasantly surprised. So, in the spirit of curiosity, I'd like to urge you to consider taking a class you are not particularly drawn to and see if you don't end up being glad you did! Most of our classes are only a single session, so there's little to lose and much to gain.

Also, it is our natural curiosity (or awareness) that prompts us to look at our community and respond where we can help, such as through our monthly pantry donations and our support to needy NOVA students. If you have a

suggestion of a group in need, please contact [Betsy Pugin](#) about adding it to our rotating list.

Now, lest you grow tired of my monthly musings, **please, please** give me suggestions (to remain anonymous) of issues or subjects you'd like me to tackle in this column. To be honest, some months are a lot harder than others to find something that I think you'd appreciate reading about. So, I throw it over to you—anything is fair game—please contact me directly. Thank you, and remember: **Our strength is our members!**

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



LLI POTLUCK PICNIC

Wednesday, September 30,
12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

[Roundtree Park](#).

3320 Annandale Rd., Falls Church

Last year's picnic was a blast, so be sure to join us for this year's potluck picnic for members and family. It will again be at the picnic shelter at [Roundtree Park](#). The registration fee is \$15 per person (cash, to be collected at the entrance). Please register in advance on the LLI Events [Calendar](#) by September 20. The fee covers the cost of hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and paper products.

When registering, members are requested to sign up to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Please also bring your own beverage. Volunteers are needed for check-in, set up, cleanup, and food prep. When registering, please indicate how you can help. Contact [Carol Fagnani](#) or [Mary Alexander](#) with any questions.

Community Outreach

S is our letter of the month:

Summer is winding down;

School has started;

Start something new;

Share and **S**upport FACETS by donating

Soups, **S**auces, and **S**nacks.

Please help supply food for FACETS at our next Forum, September 2. In addition to the items listed above, they need cereal, canned meat and fish, pasta, juice, water, diapers, and laundry detergent.

facets

FACETS began in 1988 focusing on fighting hunger. The volunteer

group now feeds 2,000 people a year and provides support every day of the year. They do much more – take a look at their website (facetscares.org) for the bigger picture.

Thanks to Paul and Bonnie Hopler for delivering our collection to FACETS, as they have so many times in the past.

– Betsy Pugin and Debbie Omori

LLI/NOVA Scholarships



Fundraising for the annual LLI/NOVA scholarships will begin in September, pending an upgrade to our website. Watch for announcements from admin@llinova.org.

Last year we raised more than \$24,000 and funded five scholarships to second-year NOVA students. This year we hope to raise between \$25,000 and \$30,000. To that end, Debbie and Steve Cohen will be offering periodic challenge grants totaling up to \$7,500 as various goals are met. We welcome others to piggyback onto these grants (in addition to their regular donations) at various intervals to help us reach this year's goal. Please contact me at scholarship@llinova.org for details.

Let's make this another banner year!

Steve Cohen
Vice President and Scholarship
Committee Chair.



Cultural Excursions

A Fall Afternoon Tea – \$50

Thursday, October 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

[Crest Hill Tea Room](#),
6488 Main St., The Plains



Every year Bonnie Hopler falls in love with fall and she hopes you do, too. Please join her in spending a beautiful fall day in the historic village of The Plains for a delicious afternoon tea. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes tax and the required 22% gratuity. There is space for 20 guests. Register [here](#) no later than October 1.

Your payment to Bonnie Hopler must be received by October 5 (only cash or check are acceptable). Your payment to Bonnie by October 5 is your confirmed reservation. There is free parking on the street and close by. We recommend carpooling. There are two steps with a railing to get to the entrance (no ramp). There are several antique/gift/garden shops nearby, should you want to peruse them before or after the tea.



Start of Fall Semester Classes

The Fall Catalog is online, ready for you to pick from among 46 classes!

For your convenience, the classes for the first month (September) are listed below, along with some of their details. Be sure to click on the [Fall-Catalog](#) to get further information. Then register at [Classes & Events - llinova.org](https://llinova.org)!

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	COORD.	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Let Me Tell You About My Dogs!	Barbara Osgood	E Wallace	W	9/9	1:30-3:00	NOVA
Continuing The World's Religions	Laura Shulman	J Sullivan & P Volz	Th	9/10 9/17 9/24	1:30-3:00	NOVA
The Inca, Children of the Sun	Charles McClelland	A Sachs	M	9/14	10:30-11:30 NOTE TIME	Greenspring Vlg
Immersion in Peru: Walking the Inca Trail & Discovering Sachet Valley	Anna Dixon	J Sullivan	Tu	9/15	10-11:30	NOVA
Mrs. Lincoln's Lawyer (Myra Bradwell)	Mary Lipsey	A Gribben	W	9/16	10-11:30	NOVA
Transportation Options in Northern Virginia	Karina Zavala	E Wallace	M	9/21	10-11:30	Zoom
52 Acres. 35,000 Lives. The Untold History Buried in Alexandria...	David Heiby	E Wallace	Tu	9/22	10-11:30	NOVA
What is Amateur Radio?	Roy Schmiesing	A Sachs	Tu	9/22	1:30-3:00	Greenspring Vlg
Grab Bag	National Park Service	D Hunsberger	W	9/23	1:30-3:00	NOVA
Hands Only CPR	Cortez Sanches & Marco Johnson	E Wallace	M	9/28	10-11:30	NOVA
Fall Tour of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens	Mary Lu Bednarsky	ML Bednarsky	Tu	9/29	10-11:15	Meadowlark
Charitable Giving & Leaving a Legacy	Kelly Campbell (Denise Ramsey)	P Brennan	Tu	9/29	1:30-3:00	NOVA

2026 Fort Hunt Film Festival

Our ranger friend/LLI instructor/Forum speaker Daniel Blier of the National Park Service invites us to come to Pavilion A at [Fort Hunt Park](#) every Friday in September at 7:30 p.m. to see movies about World War II or the Cold War. Before each screening, a park ranger will deliver a talk about how each movie connects to Fort Hunt's 20th-century history and this year's sub-theme of science and technology. Additional information may be found [here](#). Call 571-733-0145 with questions. The series of **free** movies will be (in order, starting September 4): ***Empire of the Sun, Das Boot, The Great Escape, and Dr. Strangelove.***

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

Friday, September 18, 12:30 p.m.

[Bollywood Bistro](#),

3955 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax

We are returning to an old favorite in September, Bollywood Bistro. Join us for an enticing buffet that includes an array of contemporary Indian cuisine including a few vegetarian entrees. The buffet costs \$17.99, plus tax. You may also order off the regular menu. Individual checks will be provided.



Our host is [Carol Fagnani](#). Please respond to her by September 15 if you plan to attend. For specific questions about the restaurant, contact Bollywood Bistro directly at 703 273-0031. Bollywood Bistro is located in Fairfax City, adjacent to a free parking garage. The restaurant and parking garage are accessible. Park on level four and use the ramp on either end of the garage. If you park on any other level of the garage, take the elevator to level four. Turn right off the elevator, then make an immediate left to access the ramp to the plaza. Bollywood is just to the left of the Common Culture coffee shop and around the corner.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, September 9, and Thursday, September 24, 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@lilnova.org

Favorite Books – Thursday, September 17, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. at KPL

Our choice for September is “The Marriage of Opposites” by Alice Hoffman (fiction).

POC Lynne Smaldone, favoritebooks@lilnova.org

Foodies & Friends – Friday, September 18, 12:30 p.m. See article above for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, September 14, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at KPL

We will review “Past Tense” by Lee Child. A great story!

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mysterybooks@lilnova.org

Photography – Friday, September 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@lilnova.org

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

Contact POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, tabletopgames@lilnova.org, for game info.

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