

Wednesday, November 4 -- 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 a.m.

*Tell Steve Cohen if you have a joke to share for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"***Pour Some Knowledge: Virginia Winemaking**

We are most fortunate to have an award-winning Virginia winemaker, Chris Pearmund, as our Forum speaker. He is the owner of three Virginia wineries: Pearmund Cellars, Vint Hill Craft Winery, and Effingham Manor and Winery. He also teaches about being an entrepreneur in an industry that is heavily dependent on things not easily controlled. Chris will speak about his experiences in overcoming the everyday challenges faced by winemakers.

Chris has been in the wine industry since the mid-1980s, opening his own winery in 2002. He recently received the American Wine Society's 2026 Award of Merit—one of the wine industry's most prestigious honors. He was elected president of the Virginia Vineyards Association in 1996, was

the first chairman of the Virginia Wine and Food Society, and is a certified wine judge. A board member of the Virginia Wineries Association and chairman of the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, Chris is also editor and publisher of The Grape Press, a quarterly professional vineyard trade publication.

For more than 40 years, Chris has helped educate the public on Virginia wines. He has traveled extensively through the wine regions of North and South America, Europe, and Africa to enhance his knowledge. Chris began his career in the kitchens at several restaurants in California, England, and northern Virginia, where he transitioned to wine steward and manager for several area restaurants. Please join us for this most interesting and unique presentation.

After-Forum Lunch — Join fellow LLI members for lunch at [Juke Box Diner](#), 7039 Columbia Pike, Annandale. New members are especially encouraged to come. Steve Cohen will host.

Welcome, New Members

- Ralph Goldstein
- Marilyn Halsey
- Jim McCarthy
- Paula Swann

**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.

President's Corner



Kudos to all our volunteers who helped coordinators Carol Fagnani and Mary Alexander with this year's fall picnic held on Sept. 30. Over 40 attended, and by all accounts everyone had a great time. I'm just sorry I was unable to join you. I think it's safe to say we will do this again next year!

This leads to our next event, which is eagerly anticipated by many of us. It is, of course, our Winter Luncheon on Dec. 2. Amazingly, JoAnn Ackerman, our intrepid coordinator, is managing to keep the cost per ticket the same as the last two years. I encourage all to come to this very nice event. The opportunity to mix with old friends and make new ones in a relaxing and festive environment, with a scrumptious lunch and impeccable service, makes this special.

YOU MEMBERS are extraordinary in your generosity to the LLI/NOVA Student Scholarship Fund. This year we collected more than ever before, allowing us to increase the number of scholarships to be awarded. Diane Mucci, NOVA Annandale Provost, has told us how much this means to NOVA Annandale students, especially with the current difficult economic realities. These donations are on top of our awesome Forum contributions for area food banks, NOVA Annandale students (Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry), and the John R. Lewis High School pantry and Leadership Program. We're making an impact. Remember: Our strength is our members!

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



Winter Luncheon

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Country Club of Fairfax



11:00 a.m. Reception/cash bar
Noon: Lunch

This event is a highlight of the season for members! Enjoy camaraderie with fellow LLI members over a lovely sit-down lunch (with choice of entree). We'll continue our tradition of collecting new, unwrapped toys for children.



Register and pay online [here](#) for yourself and your guests before the **Nov. 18** deadline. Questions? Contact [JoAnn Ackerman](#).

Community Outreach

Many thanks for your generosity in October for the vanload of food collected for the NOVA Nighthawks food pantry.

Our collection at the Nov. 4 Forum will be for the John R. Lewis High School Leadership Program in Springfield. The program allows students to get real-world experience and create positive change in our community. Our donations are very much appreciated and support their field trips and other activities.

Please bring snack foods like cheese crackers, granola bars, boxed juice drinks, and other individually-packaged items that can be consumed on the go.

The student leaders at John Lewis appreciate whatever we collect. One of their mottos is, "Transforming Vision into Action," - and food helps!

— *Betsy Pugin and Debbie Omori*

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](#).

Help -- at Older Adults Resource Fair

The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging is sponsoring an older-adults resource fair on Friday, Nov. 13, to celebrate its 50th anniversary. It will be held from 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. LLI/NOVA has registered to participate, as the promotional value is very beneficial. We can really use help from LLI members at the table, even if only for an hour. If you can volunteer for this, please let me know. Thank you!

[Mary Alexander](#)

LLI/NOVA Membership Outreach



\$35,000!

LLI/NOVA Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that due to the generosity and increased participation of LLI/NOVA members we raised over \$35,000 toward this year's scholarships. We met each of the challenge goals ahead of schedule and then surpassed our ultimate goal of between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

In consultation with the NOVA Foundation, the Scholarship Committee decided to increase the number of scholarships from five to six as well as to substantially increase the value of each award.

I am proud of our membership and its recognition of the importance of these scholarships to the students at NOVA's Annandale campus.

Steve Cohen
Scholarship Committee Chair and VP

Performance Opportunities

Alexandria Symphony Tickets



LLI members have been given a special opportunity to attend the Nov. 7 and 8 performances of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra with a 30% discount on tickets. The orchestra will play Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, orchestrated by Maurice Ravel. Contact [Mary Alexander](#) for the discount code. The discount does not apply to youth tickets.

In preparation for these performances, Dr. Kent McWilliams will teach an LLI/NOVA class on Friday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. that will provide insights into the 10 paintings that are musically described in *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Dr. McWilliams, who is an instructor at the University of Mary Washington and at the Main Street Music Studios in Fairfax, will discuss ways to better appreciate the separate movements. Register for the class [here](#).

George Mason Center for the Arts

\$20 tickets are available for several upcoming performances. Email admin@llinova.org to receive the discount code which may be used to purchase tickets online, over the phone, or in person at the ticket office. For online purchases, enter the code (not case-sensitive) in the "Set Your Search Options" menu prior to selecting seats. Coupon code cannot be added in the cart.

- [Shanghai Ballet: Giselle](#), Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m.
- [Spanish Harlem Orchestra](#), Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- [Aquila Theatre: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde](#), Saturday, Jan. 23 at 2 p.m.
- [National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine](#), Sunday, Jan. 31 at 3 p.m.
- [Third Coast Percussion](#), Saturday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings at a Glance

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

POC = Point of Contact

Bridge – Wednesday, Nov. 11 (main room), and Thursday, Nov. 19 (large room), 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, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at KPL

Our choice for November is "A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhirst (nonfiction).

There is no meeting in December. POC Lynne Smaldone, favoritebooks@lilnova.org

Foodies & Friends – Wednesday, Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m. See article on next page for details.

Mystery Books – Monday, Nov. 2, 1:30–3 p.m. at KPL

"The Mysterious Death of Junetta Plum" by Valerie Wilson Wesley.

POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, mysterybooks@lilnova.org

Tabletop Games – Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1:30–3 p.m. at KPL. Due to Thanksgiving, contact POC Mary Lu Bednarsky, tabletopgames@lilnova.org, to confirm this meeting will occur.

Photography – Friday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.–noon at KPL

Check out the new Photo SIG website [here](#). Each month the SIG picks a theme for members to reflect on in their photos. Some examples from September's theme of "Looking Up" are included below, but there are many more on the website (and you can see larger versions with better resolution). New members are always welcome. Cell phone cameras are fine.

POC Buck Myers, photo@lilnova.org.

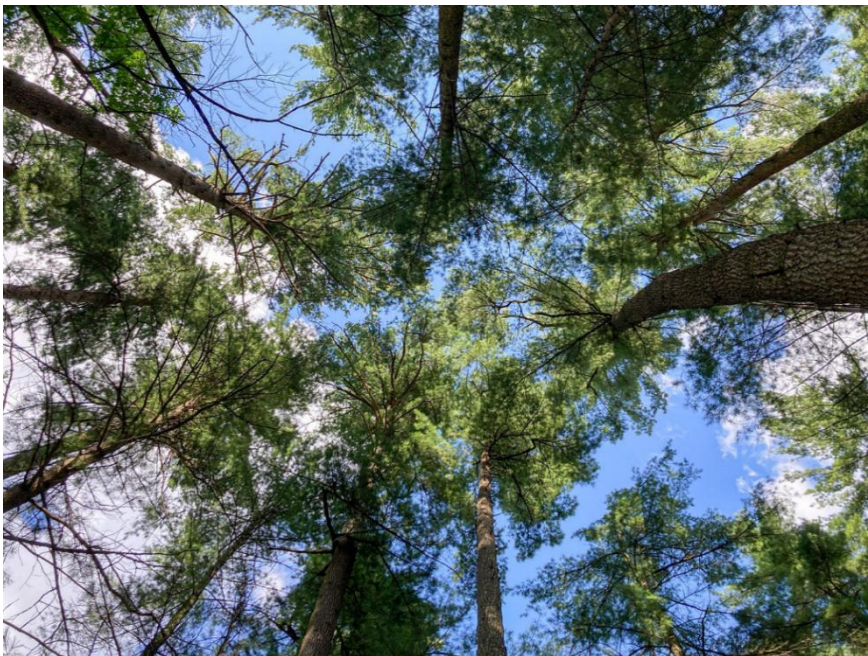


Photo by James Hildreth

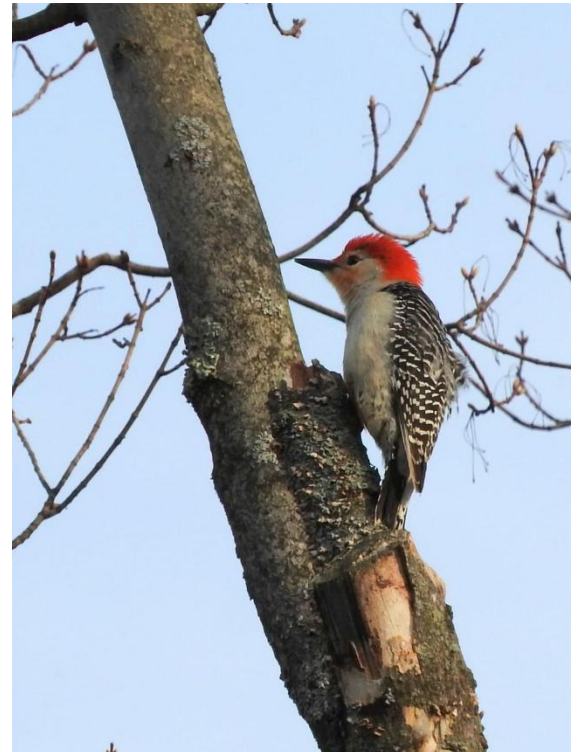


Photo by Anne Lonam

LLI Travel Opportunities

Hi, I'm Dara, Travel Coordinator for the new LLI Travel Program. Are you interested in travel? Would you like to go on an adventure? Here are some cruises you might be interested in joining me on:



- [12-day Panama Canal with Costa Rica & Caribbean Holiday](#)
Dec. 26, 2026 – Jan. 10, 2027 on Princess's Caribbean Princess.
- [7-day Greek Isles from Athens to Venice: Santorini, Olympia & Croatia](#)
May 9 – May 16 on Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Gem
- [10-day Mediterranean From Venice to Rome: Italy & Spain](#)
May 17 – May 27 on Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Prima
- [7-night Greek Isles Cruise](#)
May 30 – June 6 on Royal Caribbean's Odyssey of the Seas

Click the hyperlinks above for more information on each cruise. If you are interested in any of these trips, contact me, Dara Aldridge, at travel@llinova.org.

(Phone number available in the [LLI directory](#).)

LLI Picnic– A Tremendous Success

A big thank you for all the members who helped make our picnic a special day. Not only did we have a crew of volunteers helping to prepare, set up, cook, collect money, and clean up, but others also helped with ice, coolers, drinks, tables, and chairs. And the array of foods was amazing – from deviled eggs to all kinds of salads. To top it off, the weather was gorgeous. It looks like this may become a yearly tradition!

– *Mary Alexander and Carol Fagnani*
Picnic Committee

Foodies & Friends

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m.

[Present Restaurant](#),
6678 Arlington Blvd.,
Falls Church

Please join Foodies & Friends at an old favorite for a fairly early November lunch that won't interfere with Thanksgiving.

We haven't been to

Present in several years, but have enjoyed several past lunches at this pleasant and



venerable restaurant.

Present focuses on one thing—serving great Vietnamese food made with fresh ingredients.

It is casual and relaxed, perfect for lunch with friends. They believe food tastes better when it's



made with care, and they only use the freshest ingredients in every dish. From classic noodle soups to rice plates, fresh seafood, and more, their team works hard to bring out real Vietnamese flavor in each meal. There are many vegan options, so everyone can find something they enjoy. Parking is easy and separate checks will be provided. The restaurant is accessible. Our host is Patti Volz. RSVP to her by Nov. 9. The [menu](#) is extensive so you may want to take a look before arriving!

LLI/NOVA Board of Directors

President: Patti Volz
Vice Pres: Steve Cohen
Secretary: Bill Tuceling
Treasurer: Richard Sigman
Past President: Derick Malis

Members:
Richard Ackerman,
Mary Alexander,
Cathy Becker, Andy Butler,
Debbie Cohen, Fritz Ernst,
Carol Fagnani, Ed McKnight,
John Sullivan, Ellen Wallace

Administrator: Janice Viola—
Contact at admin@llinova.org

LLI Newsletter Committee

Chair: Cathy Becker, newsletter@llinova.org
Loren Brandman, Patricia Brennan



List of November Classes

Have you signed up for November classes? Click on [Classes & Events - lilnova.org](https://lilnova.org/classes-events) to register. Details about classes can be found in the [Fall-Catalog](#)

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	COORD.	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCAN
What is Religion, Anyway?	Michael Kaplan	P Volz	M	11/2, 11/9, 11/16	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 225
How to Make Layered French Pastries (\$5 fee per person)	Terry Hollerbach	M Alexander	Tu	11/3	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 231
Religion, Magic & Supernatural Belief Systems	Tiffany Blackmon	P Brennan	Th	11/5	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 225
The Music Behind "Pictures at an Exhibition"	Kent McWilliams	M Alexander	F	11/6	10:00-11:30	NOVA CM 215
Minds at Work: Rethinking the NOVA Classroom for Today's Students	Carol Quade	D Cohen	Fri	11/6	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 225
Brains Over Bullets: The Role of Maryland's Camp Richie in Helping American Soldiers Win WWII	Christopher Galen	S Cohen	Mon	11/9	10:00-11:30	NOVA CN 225
Honoring All Who Served: History of Veterans Day	Jeff Joyce	P Brennan	Tu	11/10	10:00-11:30	NOVA CN 104
Introduction to the History of Technology	Brian Vagats	S Campbell	Thur	11/12	10:00-11:30	NOVA CN 104
The South American Wars of Independence	Charles McClelland	A Sachs	Tu	11/17	10:30-11:30 NOTE TIME	Greenspring Village
The Tougaloo Nine and the 1961 Jackson Library Sit-In	Mike O'Brien	S Campbell	Wed	11/18	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 105
Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)	Tony Capizzi & Anita Conroy	P Volz	Thur	11/19	10:00-11:30	NOVA CN 104
Excursion to the Radcliffe-Allison-Pozer House Tour	Bill Tuceling	B Tuceling	Fri	11/20	11:00-12:00	House tour
Grab Bag	National Park Service	D Hunsberger	Fri	11/20	1:30- 3:00	NOVA CN 225



LLI members touring NOVA Labs in Aug.



Members at the LLI picnic