

## March LLI Forum

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 10 a.m.**  
**(Social Time at 9:30 a.m.)**

**Take Flight: Relive the Milestones of Aviation and the Development of the National Air and Space Museum**

The National Air and Space Museum (NASM), in its two major facilities, is among the most visited and outstanding in the world. *Up, Up and Away, Fly Me to the Moon,* and *Leaving on a Jet Plane* are some of the many songs that croon over the magic of flight. Ray Steiger and Scott Willey, two retired Air Force officers, are expert docents at the NASM's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. From pre-flight, to commerce, to war, and into space, Ray and Scott will bring to life some of the milestones and pivotal events in aviation history. Ray Steiger is also a former pilot who flew B-29s in WWII. Both USAF officers have extensive engineering backgrounds and worked on several aviation projects at NASA and the Pentagon after their military retirement. The speakers will show pictures of key museum exhibits and share some stories leading to each achievement.



Ray Steiger



Scott Willey

The Smithsonian NASM maintains the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world and also is a vital center for research and education. LLI is honored to welcome these aviation experts to our Forum.

**Please Note:** *Parking is in parking garage (\$1/hour). Parking in B and C lots is by permit only. If no garage parking slots are available, a \$6 daily permit for the B lot is available at the office to the right just inside the entry gate.*

**LLI Forum Forward:** On Wednesday, April 4, our speaker will be Mr. Don A. Ritchie, Historian of the United States Senate.

## Study Travel 2013 – Meeting on March 13

We have found that to secure the best travel prices, it is beneficial to start planning our 2013 LLI trip now because many tour companies offer their best rates a year or more prior to the actual departure date. So put on your thinking caps, thumb through those many travel brochures, and bring your ideas to our first meeting.

We will meet in the adjacent seminar rooms following the March 13 Forum to discuss possible destinations. All LLI members are welcome; we encourage new travelers to join us.

## LLI Picnic

**Tuesday, June 19th — Fort Hunt Park**

If you would like to serve on the picnic planning team, please sign up at the Volunteer table at the Forum, or contact Bonnie Hopler at (703) 978-9381 or [pbhopler@cox.net](mailto:pbhopler@cox.net). This is a great first volunteer activity for our newer members, as well as for any long-term members seeking a volunteer opportunity.

## Lunch Bunch

John Bogart [bogartje@cox.net](mailto:bogartje@cox.net)

Reservations for lunch after the March 13 Forum have been made at the **Hunan West Restaurant**, in the King's Park Shopping Center, 8938 Burke Lake Rd., Springfield. Phone (703) 425-1703. Our LLI group has enjoyed their food many times.

**Directions from NOVA:** Turn left onto Wakefield Chapel Rd., then right onto Braddock Rd. Turn left onto Burke Lake Rd. The shopping center is on your right.

# Calendar of Events

## March 2012

- 9 LLI Board Meeting Forum
- 9 April newsletter deadline
- 13 Forum
- 19 April newsletter mailing

16 May newsletter mailing

## May 2012

- 2 Forum
- 11 LLI Board Meeting
- 11 June newsletter deadline
- 21 June newsletter mailing

## April 2012

- 4 Forum
- 5 Capitol Hill day trip
- 6 May newsletter deadline
- 13 LLI Board meeting



## IMPORTANT: Report Address / E-Mail / Phone Number Changes

Laura Charron, Administrator

To be assured of receiving important notices concerning classes and trips, **please remember** to notify the LLI office as soon as possible of a new e-mail address as well as a change in mailing address and/or telephone number. Notify the office by phone at (703) 503-0600, or e-mail at [llinova@juno.com](mailto:llinova@juno.com).



### LLI Board of Directors

**President:** Paul Hople  
**Vice President:** Ed McKnight  
**Secretary:** Arlene Gribben  
**Treasurer:** Phil Runge

**Members:** Louise Blakely 14 \*, George Chalou 12, Arlene Gribben 13, Pat Harrison 14, Charles Hulick 12, Bob Huley 13, Norma Hughes 12, Merry Macke 13, Marianne Moerman 13, Moe Moser 14, Peter Schwarzkopf 13, Karren Scott 12

\* year term ends

**Administrator:** Laura Charron

### Newsletter Staff

**Newsletter Editor:** Lynda Brittain 703-425-8240 [brittains@cox.net](mailto:brittains@cox.net)  
**Assistant Editor:** Bev Portman, 703-560-6740 [firse@juno.com](mailto:firse@juno.com)  
**Graphic Design/Desktop Publisher:** Alfred Brothers  
**Mailing Coordinators:** Bob and Merry Huley

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## Members

Louise Blakely 703-451-2084  
[blakelylk@yahoo.com](mailto:blakelylk@yahoo.com)

**Welcome, New Members! We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.**

### New Members

**Carole Compton**, 7412 Grace St., Springfield, VA 22150, (703) 451-4215

**Janice Crawford**, 3704 Pleasant Ridge Rd., Annandale, VA 22003, (703) 205-9515, [deejaycraw@cox.net](mailto:deejaycraw@cox.net)

**Barbara Evans**, 5415 Weymouth Drive, Springfield, VA 22151, (703) 978-2122

**Walter Smith**, 8948 Colesbury Place, Fairfax, VA 22031-3206 (703) 280-2013,

### Updates

**Dolores Miller**, [djmiller75@gmail.com](mailto:djmiller75@gmail.com)



## Humor Corner

Another Paraprofessionist

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Hospitality Committee will soon have an opening for someone to remind people, who signed up for refreshments, to come early and bring cookies, brownies, or dessert breads, etc. This is a great way to volunteer and help ensure that the wonderful goodies we all enjoy each month keep coming. The monthly time requirement is minimal. Contact Merry at the number below if you are interested.

**Volunteer Coordinator/Publicity:** Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, [merry.macke@verizon.net](mailto:merry.macke@verizon.net)

**Forum Greeter Coordinator:** Colletta Hammond, 703-866-6159, [mchammondh@aol.com](mailto:mchammondh@aol.com)

**Speaker Forum Committee:** Joseph Pincus, 703-569-0973, [joseph@pincus.org](mailto:joseph@pincus.org)

## President's Message

Last month I mentioned several items we have been working on that appear to be success stories. There is one more item which at that time was not far enough along to mention, but now is.

At the beginning of the LLI year (July 2011), we wanted to take steps to assure we were meeting our members' needs. New board member, **Pat Harrison**, with the support of **Louise Blakely** and our administrator, **Laura Charron**, prepared a survey and received responses from many members. Most responses were positive, but they included a number of points for us to consider. You will be hearing more of this, but thanks to the committee for their excellent efforts and to the members who provided the feedback. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article that summarizes the results of the survey.

High on everyone's mind is the parking at NOVA, an issue that just won't go away. The school is fully aware of it and has long-range plans to try to address it; but with the increase in student numbers, there currently is just not enough space. In the very beginning of the semester there is open parking, which means a long walk but parking is available. February, when parking is enforced, is the worst because there are the most students competing for the garage. This was further complicated by an auto accident this past Forum date. As the semester goes on, more students will purchase parking passes and many students (unfortunately) drop out. During the summer, attendance is lower and the problem reduced.

Remember that there is the option to stop at the parking garage office (just past the entrance gate on the right) and obtain an all-day pass to provide access to the outside B lots. Unfortunately, you have to pay the all-day price of \$6.00.

Our NOVA contacts tell us that the attendance decreases as the week progresses, so we tried to schedule our Forums on Wednesdays. Thursdays and Fridays are generally reserved for commercial users who pay higher prices to use the Forum space. For the March Forum, Wednesday was not available; but for the rest of the year, we will meet on Wednesdays.

One quick item is to meet the members' request for the minutes of the board meeting on the web site and we will start this shortly. Another initiative, also happening as a result of the survey, is only e-mail versions of the newsletter will be sent to members who request that change.

Hope to see you in class.

*Paul Hopler*

## Community Outreach

Betty Lee Thatcher 703-354-8154  
Carol Weber, caroljeanweber@hotmail.com

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is the food pantry that will receive our LLI March food donations. For more than 20 years, AFAC has stayed true to its mission of obtaining and distributing groceries, directly and free of charge, to people living in Arlington who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs. The high cost of living here causes many families to struggle. Over 1,400 families come in each week and the supplemental groceries mean that they can remain in their homes; workers can stay on the job; children are ready to learn; and babies have the nutrition they need. Current needs include **bags of dried beans and rice, cans of tuna, sardines, and salmon, canned fruit, cooking oil, low-sugar cereals, masa (corn flour), oatmeal, and low sodium soups.** Marianne Moerman will deliver the food donations.



Bev Portman reported that she delivered 53 pounds of food to Food for Others from our February LLI Forum collection. Thank you as always for your generous donations and we look forward to another successful collection at the March Forum. Please remember the food collection table is located in the back of the Forum room so that we don't interfere with members coming in the front entrance.

## Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

If the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) cancel school for the day due to inclement weather or other emergency, all LLI classes, Forums, and other activities, except trips, are cancelled regardless of class location. LLI morning classes are cancelled if the FCPS announces a 2-hour delay in class openings; LLI afternoon classes are cancelled if the FCPS announces early dismissal. Trips are cancelled at the discretion of the trip leader.

# Special Interest Groups



## LLI Arts & Smarts

Donna Trogler, 703-751-8932  
dtrogler@aol.com

**Date:** Thursday, March 22, has not been confirmed

**Location:** Renwick Gallery (meeting location to be determined)

What do the Sackler, Freer, Portrait and Phillips Galleries have in common? They are the homes of amazing *objets d'art*. Come join us as we resume our program of docent led tours of the treasures at these beautiful establishments beginning with **"Something of Splendor": Decorative Arts from the White House.**

This exhibition traces the history of decorative arts in the nation's foremost home with approximately 90 objects – furniture, ceramics, metals, glass and textiles – along with archival prints and photographs of interior rooms. Many of these objects were made by celebrated craftsmen of their time and some have never been seen outside of the White House. The exhibition was organized in honor of the 50th anniversary of the White House Historical Association. For more information, contact Donna Trogler.



## LLI Bridge Group

Bob or Merry Huley, 703-534-4819 or  
703-489-9045 roberthuley@cox.net

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch

**Location:** Mason District Governmental Center

**March Play Dates:** Thursday, March 1, and Thursday March 15 (Note both are Thursdays)

**April Play Dates:** Thursday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 18 (Note change in day of the week.)

Bring a bag lunch. You do not need a partner because we rotate partners so you will play with everyone. We are always looking for new players, and all levels of players are welcome in this very friendly game. Please call (703-534-4819), or email me (roberthuley@cox.net), if you would like to attend (or for more information) so that we can provide sufficient card tables.

**Recent Results** — The top six players (5 tables playing) at the game on January 25 were: **Mary Underwood, Jack Acey, Arline Sachs, Raymond Burmester, June Chalou, and Marie Schacher.** The top four players at the game on February 2 were: **Raymond Burmester, Jim McCall, Buck Myers and Bob Huley.** Congratulations to all.



## LLI Community Theater

Norma Hughes, 703-960-6279  
nahhome@verizon.net

All who have signed up for the Community Theater Group should have a listing of theater offerings for the current season. Members have an opportunity to select and host a theater date and possible after-theater socializing at a nearby restaurant. If you are interested in joining the group, send your name and email address to Norma Hughes at nahhome@verizon.net.



## LLI Current Events Group

Marion Jacknow, 703-698-8702  
mjacknow@aol.com

**Date/Time:** Friday, March 2, 10:00 — 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental Center

The Current Events Group meets monthly for continued interesting and educational discussions. Topics reflect the current social, political and worldly events surrounding the time of the meeting. Please join us to share your ideas and/or learn more about current events — whatever is your pleasure. For more information, please contact Marian Jacknow.



## LLI Favorite Books Club

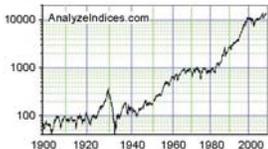
Connie Fullerton, 703-764-3779  
constancefullerton@gmail.com

**Date/Time:** Thursday, March 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Braddock District Governmental Center (King's Park Library building)

Our March discussion book, *The Songcatcher* by Sharyn McCrumb, is the latest in McCrumb's ballad novel series that follows a single ballad through several generations of the McCourry family. The "songcatcher" is Lark McCourry, a contemporary country western singer, who is haunted by childhood memories of this ballad, and who is trying to return to her Appalachian mountain home in North Carolina.

In this suspenseful book, we also learn the life story of the kidnapped Scottish boy who brought the song to America in the mid-18th century. The novel is about history and song, about old and contemporary plots mixed together, and about folkways of the south. Enjoy!



## Financial Discussion Group

Doug Johnson, 703-628-3115  
dejlli@yahoo.com

**Date/Time:** Friday, March

9, 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Braddock District Governmental Center (King's Park Library building)

All are welcome as this is a wide-ranging topic, no holds barred, discussion group. Bring your questions (and maybe some answers). Possible topics may be **Search for Yield, Beware the MLP Problem, What's Wrong with Bond Funds?, Why is Warren Buffet's Secretary Important?** See you then and there.



## LLI French Conversation Group

Sally Reynolds, 703-352-7494  
saldonreyn@aol.com

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 20,  
10:00 a.m. – noon

**Location:** Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental Center

Under the guidance of our professor Al Brothers, the class will continue to use the *French in Action* program to improve our French language skills. Anyone interested in joining, should contact Sally Reynolds



## LLI Gourmands

Mary Underwood, 703-329-8391  
maryunderwood29@verizon.net

Betty Pogerman and Giovanna Prestigiaco have scheduled our

March event at the **Bamian Restaurant** (Afghani cuisine) at noon on **Thursday, March 22**. The restaurant is located at 5634 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church and the phone number is (703) 820-7880. The Washington Post food critic, Tom Sietsema, recommends this restaurant. If you wish to attend, please contact Betty at (703) 323-7634 or email at [bettymusic@verizon.net](mailto:bettymusic@verizon.net).



## LLI Nimble Fingers

Bev Portman, 703-560-6746  
firse@juno.com

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. – noon (**Note**

**Change from Regular Schedule)**

**Location:** Small Conference Room, Mason District Governmental Center

This group meets monthly to enjoy and share all types of needlecrafts. Please bring a small project of any type to work on. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Bev Portman.



## LLI Photography Group

Buck Myers, 703-532-3726  
hbm@hbmphoto.com

**Date/Time:** Friday, March 16,  
10:00 a.m. — noon

**Location:** Braddock District Governmental Center, (King's Park Library building)

Members have a wide range of photographic abilities and interests and share a common desire to hone existing skills or learn new ones. Meetings center on a specific topic, area of interest or theme decided by the group and new members are always welcome. For further information, contact Buck Myers.



## LLI Walkabouts

Merry Macke, 703-451-3248, cell phone:  
978-505-9506 [merry.macke@verizon.net](mailto:merry.macke@verizon.net)

**Date/Time:** First and third Fridays at noon

**March 2:** Meet at the Oak Marr Recreation Center, Vienna. Take I-66 to Rte. 123 North. Turn left at Germantown Rd. (second light) and Oak Marr will be on the right. Park and meet in front of the center. If the weather has been wet recently, wear boots for a certain section of the Cross County Trail (CCT).

**March 16:** Theodore Roosevelt Island. Take I-395 to exit 8B (VA 27/Washington Blvd.) toward Pentagon/Arlington Cemetery. When just about to go over the Memorial Bridge, take the road on the right going under the bridge, and this will eventually merge onto the northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Start moving to the right lane, and then turn right into the parking lot for the island. If using Metro, you can walk from the Rosslyn Metro to the park. Questions — just talk to Merry.

If the temperature is below freezing or the roads are icy, the walk will be cancelled.

*Deadline for the April  
newsletter is Friday,  
March 9, 2012.*

## The Results Are In!

**T**hank you for your responses to the recent LLI survey. We mailed 415 surveys to current and past members to obtain information on how LLI is functioning and to identify areas that should be addressed by the Board of Directors; 120 (29%) surveys were returned. Your candid responses were appreciated and we will be addressing those comments and concerns expressed by the majority of the respondents in upcoming Forums and in future newsletters.

Overall, members recognize that LLI is currently operated by a small number of members and that to bring in new ideas and energy to continue to sustain our organization, we must engage more volunteers as Board members, committee chairs, course coordinators, etc. With that said, the majority of respondents are "Very Satisfied" with LLI and are "Very Likely" to continue their membership in the future. We received many suggestions and ideas from the surveys and will be pursuing a large number of them. The top three reasons members said they joined LLI were: (1) Courses/Learning; (2) Socialization; and (3) Day/Overnight trips. The Special Interest Groups were also popular.

We learned that many of our members lead lives busy with other activities. Some may not understand that, except for one part-time administrator, LLI is operated completely by volunteers. Many expressed appreciation for our inexpensive annual dues, but this can only continue with volunteer assistance, cooperation, and time.

Another concern expressed on the surveys is the inability to meet, get to know, and interact with more members. For those who regularly attend the Forums, take a moment to introduce yourself to those around you that you've not met before and say "hello" to visitors and new members. Additionally, make a concerted effort to wear your name tag when attending Forums and classes. The Membership Committee is looking for ways to more easily identify new members and visitors so that we can spot them and have the opportunity to make them feel welcome.

Of course, the best way to meet more members is by volunteering and participating in activities that usually consist of smaller groups, such as Special Interest Groups, classes, and trips. These types of activities give you the greatest opportunity to interact with fellow members. We hope this summary of the issues raised in the survey and the explanations and ideas for resolving some of them is useful to you. If you have any specific questions about the survey results, you may speak with Membership Committee members Laura Charron, Louise Blakely, or Pat Harrison.

*More to come!*

## A Thank You to LLI

The following letter from Bethany House shows their appreciation for the toys that we collected at the annual holiday party. Thanks to all the LLI members who so generously brought toys and other gifts for the children of Bethany House.

*January 18, 2012*

*Dear Life Long [sic] Learning Institute:*

*On behalf of Bethany House of Northern Virginia (BHNV), I would like to thank you for your generous donation of toys and gifts made in December 2011. Your contribution helped to provide for 34 families in our Family Assistance Program – and I know the children loved the toys!*

*BHNV depends on contributions and donations like yours to assist in helping the women and children we serve recover from the devastating effects of domestic abuse. Through these efforts, we see lives changed for the better. As we move forth in 2012, we look forward to your continued support and anticipate a strong partnership with you. Again, thank you and Happy New Year!*

*Respectfully,  
Kate White*

*Bethany House of Northern Virginia*



## Membership Renewal Reminder

The mailing label on each newsletter includes your membership renewal date. You must renew and be a member in good standing in order to register for courses and to participate in LLI's many other activities. Complete the membership form (last page in the current course catalog), check "renewal," indicate any new information, and mail it to the LLI office with a check in the amount of \$110 for each person wishing to continue membership with LLI.

Please print clearly to help ensure that your information is entered correctly. **It is important to include the form with your check, for ease in crediting your membership renewal in our database.**



# From the LLI Scrapbook

## From the February Forum



*LLI President Paul Hopler thanks Academy Director Tracey Ryan for the team's comprehensive overview of volunteer police operations.*



*Paul Hopler thanks other team members. Further information about becoming a Fairfax County citizen volunteer is available at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/citizens-police-academy.htm>.*



## Texas de Brazil



*Gourmands luncheon at Texas de Brazil Restaurant.*

## LLI's Friendship Connection

Pat Harrison, 703-550-7530, [pjharris80@msn.com](mailto:pjharris80@msn.com)



One of the benefits of LLI membership is making friends. We like to show support for fellow members by sending a card to anyone who is ill or has suffered a loss. If you would like a card sent to an LLI member or spouse on behalf of the LLI membership, please contact Pat Harrison. Be sure to include sufficient information so an appropriate card can be selected.



Established 1996



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Merrifield, VA

**Change Service Requested**

**Time Sensitive Material  
Please Deliver by  
February 24, 2012**

Look at the date on this label.  
Is it time to send your dues?

