



LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE-
MANASSAS

UPDATES

November 15, 2009 -- Volume 21

President's Message



David Ward

I recently got involved with trying to bring a forum to LLI Manassas on Health Care. As a member of the Programs Committee, we wanted to invite AARP to do a presentation on Health Care legislation and how it would affect the 50+ age group. During the course of pursuing this forum, we became aware that AARP had internal dissension and a portion of the AARP membership broke away from the parent organization over the health care issue. What began as a simple exploration for information became an exercise in navigating the factional landscape of our political environment. Factionalism is not new. James Madison in the Federalist Papers talked extensively about the problems of factionalism. We also learned from AARP that demonstrators showed up at many of their presentations and in some cases violence erupted. Needless to say, we had to cancel the presentation until we

could find a suitable time and space that would not subject our members to unnecessary incivility.

The problem discussed above leads me to a book. For those of you who know me, I am a book worm. I have a book to recommend. The book is The Argument Culture: Stopping America's War of Words by Deborah Tannen who is a Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University. Deborah Tannen makes clear that there is a difference in making an argument (reasoned discussion) and having an argument (picking a fight). The original Socratic method, the elenchus, was designed to convince others, awake them from their habitual modes of thought and lead a person to new insight not a dialogue that was adversarial intended to defeat or humiliate. I believe that LLI Manassas represents the spirit of the elenchus; the spirit of the Chautauqua that elevates our spirit.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for -- even in these troubled times.

David

Chili Cook-off

November 12 was a banner day. It was the LLI-Manassas' first chili cook-off. Paul Kister prepared his prize-winning recipe, ready to defend his title – LLI-Chili Cooking King. There were 5 chili entrants competing against Paul -- Olga Jacobsen, Judy Martins, Nancy Osborne, Roseanne Schubring, and Joyce Young. After attendees sampled each chili votes were cast for the favorite. Well, Paul was almost unseated as the LLI-Chili Cooking King. Paul's chili tied with Olga's for best recipe. All of the chili was delicious so it was difficult to choose a favorite! Everyone enjoyed the contest and had a wonderful lunch.

Winter is on the way and chili is perhaps one of the world's leading cold weather comfort foods. If you want to be able to cook up, Award Winning LLI Chili, contact Marilyn Scott, (703) 361-7074. She will be glad to send you one or all of the recipes that resulted from the First LLI-Manassas Chili Cook-off.

A WINTER CELEBRATION**

Noon, Wednesday December 9

December 9 is the day. Noon is the time. The Regency Clubhouse is the place. All we need now is the members to make this the biggest and the best of Winter Celebrations. We in LLI-Manassas have much to celebrate – we are completing our sixth successful year and we have grown to 208 strong.



Luncheon Buffet

*Carved, Traditional Roast Turkey
Stuffed with fresh sage and rosemary*

*Cornbread Stuffing
Turkey Gravy
Cranberry Relish
Mashed Potatoes
Green Bean Casserole*

Dessert

*Sandy's choice of assorted cakes and pies
With
Coffee Bar, Ice Tea & Water*

There will be ample time for socializing during the luncheon meeting and greeting LLI friends as the year 2009 spins down. Further, there will be entertainment -- by LLI's Alice and Alvin Davis providing piano and harmonica music – sing along if you wish -- and closing our festivities we will be serenaded with seasonal music sung by an outstanding choral group – The Regency Chorale.

Now how do you get there?

For those without GPS: Come to the intersection of US 66 and US Highway 15, James Madison Highway, exit 40. Proceed north bound toward Leesburg for approximately 1.9 miles. Turn left at the traffic light on to Dominion Valley Drive. Stay on Dominion Valley Drive for 0.4 miles, then turn right on to Regency Club Drive for 0.2 miles. Go through the Regency Gate and turn left – 272 feet to the parking lot and clubhouse.

For those with GPS; The address is 15351 Championship Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169.

We will need to RSVP to provide Executive Chef Sandy with how many turkeys must be caught and cooked -- so please e-mail Alice Davis at aliced2246@aol.com or call Joyce Mancini at (703) 743 - 1622. Reservations must be made by December 2.

****LLI-Manassas Members are free**

Norman Rockwell Exhibit

We're sure that many of you who visited Gari Melchers' home and studio - Belmont - last semester have fond memories of this historic site as well as Melchers' artistic vibrancy and its place in our cultural heritage. Lydia Gonzales has informed us that several members have asked her about the showing of Norman Rockwell's paintings that is scheduled for Belmont. Although LLI-Manassas has not planned to

feature a trip to Melchers' Home and Studio to see the Rockwell exhibit we hope that this notice will alert some members who will visit the Falmouth Virginia site.

The Rockwell paintings are focused on "Picturing Health" and feature 11 original paintings by Rockwell from the Pfizer Inc. collection, which includes some of the finest examples of the artist's advertising imagery. Rockwell's paintings explore the doctor/patient relationship, health and healing across generations, and the importance of physical fitness.

Also featured in the exhibit are 14 of today's preeminent illustrators from the pages of *Healthy Living*, *Men's Health*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. Their art work presents a contemporary perspective on many of the same health-related subjects explored nearly 50 years earlier by Rockwell.

The exhibit is open to the public from October 31, 2009 to January 31, 2010. For more information we suggest that you check this Web site: <http://www.umw.edu/news/?a=1804>.

Charities

At this time of year each of us is bombarded with requests for help from one charity after another. It does not stop and just sometimes one asks – why me? We understand that LLI-Manassas is not a philanthropic organization. Further, we understand that we may be intruding on your personal wishes when we use *UPDATES* or e-mails to bring to your attention a worthwhile cause. Participation in these charities is an individual decision and LLI-Manassas does not use its funds in support of any of these charities.

In the case of the two mentioned in this *UPDATES* we are supporting their efforts in conjunction with our host college, NOVA-Manassas.

They are:

Be a Santa to a Senior -- we teamed with NOVA-Manassas last year and LLI-Manassas members collected 50 gifts for lonely and needy seniors. This year we hope to do as well. Leading our efforts are Elaine Cash, ecbeach@comcast.net and June Foss, junefoss@comcast.net. If you have not had a chance to obtain the ornament with the name of a senior please e-mail them.

For those unfamiliar with the process - obtain an ornament - either Elaine or June can tell you where. Purchase the suggested gift and drop it off unwrapped at one of the drop-off points with the ornament securely fastened (a convenient drop-off point for LLI-Manassas is the NOVA office at Innovation Park.) There are other drop-offs around the area and you can find one as well as more information about this national charity on the Web at: www.beasantatoasenior.com.

By the way if you would prefer to provide a check they should be made out to Be a Santa to a Senior and given or mailed to Elaine 4926 Wolf Run Shoals Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Kits for Kids -- Winter Warm-UP 2009-2010

"In an effort to make sure that every student in Prince William County is dressed warmly for the upcoming winter season, the Education Committee of The Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce is kicking off the 2009-2010 Winter Warm-UP!

This drive will provide the area's neediest students with badly needed winter clothing they will otherwise go without. For just \$10, one child will receive an appropriate sized sweatshirt, sweatpants, knit cap and

winter gloves. All items purchased will be distributed to students in schools and area shelters in Prince William County.

Last winter members of the Chamber of Commerce (We are a non-profit organization member) were able to help over 500 children stay warm – with your help we can help even more this year. Simply click on the “Add to Basket” link below to get started -- <http://store.kitsforkidz.org/section.php?xSec=48>” **

** This information straight from the Chamber’s website!

Terra Cotta Warriors

When we sent out the first notice on a trip to see the Terra Cotta Warriors in last month’s *UPDATES* we thought that we would be flooded with members who would want to go. Not the case. We have less than 25 of the 40 reservations we have guaranteed to National Geographic. We have done some investigation on why. It seems that some are disenchanted with the METRO trip. Therefore, we are looking into other options to get to D.C. We will keep you apprised of our findings – as we have time – actual sign-up will be during spring semester.

If you would like to see more about the “Warriors” check out their Web --

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/terracottawarriors>

And if you would like to see some pictures and videos of the unpacking go to Face Book:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-DC/National-Geographic-Museum/73081654186?ref=mf>

If you do want to participate in the trip to see the 2000 year old “Warriors” there are still spaces on the reservation list. Remember, if you want to see them after March 31, 2010 you will have to travel to [Xi'an](#), [Shaanxi](#) province in China. Our trip might be a bit easier? We have 15 more reservations for a visit on February 20, 2010 - a Saturday - at 10:30. If you wish to get on the reservations list e-mail perlman1@aol.com.

Very respectfully,

Perley

