



SPRING 2026 PROGRAM GUIDE Spring Semester 2026

January 12 - June 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mark your calendars!



JOIN LLI-MANASSAS TWO WAYS:

1. Online at www.lli-manassas.org



2. By mail: Complete the membership form on page 8. Make check payable to LLI-Manassas and mail to LLI Manassas, PO Box 284, Haymarket, VA 20168

REGISTER FOR CLASSES TWO WAYS:

1. On-line registration opens **January 12**
www.lli-manassas.org



2. In-person registration January 24
1:30 to 3:00pm - Kickoff Social at
Hylton Performing Arts Center,
10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas

For a detailed description of all classes, including bios of the instructors, refer to the Spring 2026 Program Guide on the website at www.lli-manassas.org/Spring2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS LLI?

The Lifelong Learning Institute-Manassas (LLIManassas) is a vibrant educational and social organization serving hundreds of enthusiastic seniors in Prince William County, Virginia. We are a non-profit, member-run organization that provides affordable educational and social opportunities in a friendly atmosphere for adults aged 50 and over.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

\$125 if joining or renewing in September. This covers participation for two consecutive semesters (Fall and Spring).

CAN I ATTEND JUST ONE CLASS...OR ALL OF THEM?

Attend one or all! Your membership pays for all classes, with the exception of those few that have a special fee as noted in the class description.

DOES LLI MEET IN PERSON?

Generally speaking, yes. Occasionally a class may be held via Zoom. See individual class descriptions for class locations. Unless otherwise indicated, the venues are located in Manassas.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Come to in-person registration & Kickoff Social, January 14, 1:30 to 3:00 pm, at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Or send us an email: llimanassas@gmail.com.

JANUARY

S26-0114P, Spring Kick-Off Social

Date: Jan 14, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

LLI Coordinator: Karla Anzzolin

Desc: Come out to meet other members, learn about classes and clubs, get help with the website and/or registration, and enjoy light refreshments. Featuring a special area for new members to learn about LLI.

Members, please register. Guests are welcome!

S26-0115P, Basic Poetry Class

Date: Jan 15, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: Feb 19, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 7

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Hosts: Alice K. Mergler and Dottie Ward-Wimmer

Desc: These five sessions, will take us into poetic foundations: the ABCs of what poetry is and how to begin planting your words like seeds that grow into rhythms, rhymes, stories, and wisdom. We will write and then read each other's work, sometimes silently, sometimes aloud, before discussing it. Please bring writing materials and join us to meet your inner poet.

S26-0119P, The Souls Close to Edgar Allan Poe: Graves of His Family, Friends, and Foes

Date: Jan 19, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Dr. Sharon Pajka

Desc: "No! Even in the grave all is not lost."

Dr. Pajka will provide us with a fuller understanding of Poe's life through an oral journey to the burial places of the people who lived in Edgar Allan Poe's world, telling the stories of the individuals who supported, inspired, and challenged him, and even a few who attempted to foil his plans.

Copies of Dr. Pajka's books will be available for purchase. \$20 cash or \$25 PayPal or Venmo.

S26-0120A, Women in the Bible

Date: Jan 20, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: Feb 17, March 24, April 21

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: The Rev. James Hughes

Desc: This class is a continuation of the one Father Hughes led last fall. He will cover the historical, theological, and archeological components of Old and New Testament women. You may register for this class whether you attended the Fall 2025 class or not.

S26-0121A, The American Revolution: What You Did Not Learn in School-Part Two AND America's 250th Anniversary

Date: Jan 21, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Blane Amthor

Desc: Most Americans are familiar with key events from the American Revolution such as the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, and Benedict Arnold's betrayal. However, there are many fascinating details, personalities, and misconceptions about them that can alter our perception of the events. As we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, Blane Amthor's examination of these aspects will enhance your view of events that were key to our country's founding.

S26-0126P, Lerner & Loewe – Creating Romance on Broadway

Date: Jan 21, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Steven Abramowitz

Desc: If Rodgers & Hammerstein were the "Kings of Broadway," then Lerner & Loewe would be the "Princes of Broadway." Together they created some of the most well-known Broadway musicals and movies during the "Golden Age" of Broadway from the 1940s to the 1960s. Using video clips, Steven Abramowitz will look at the careers of Lerner & Loewe and share interesting stories about some of the many actors appearing in the productions and movies that generations have grown to love.

S26-0126P, Join the Line and Dance

Date: Jan 26, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Additional date: Feb 16

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, Gymnasium, 8712 Plantation Ln

Max class size: 45

Instructor: Ann Komelasky

Desc: Ann will briefly discuss the popularity of Line Dancing and then lead us through a review of the three dances we learned in the December class. She will also discuss the terminology of the different dance steps. A second class is scheduled for Feb 16 to learn new dances, with the formation of a Dance Club following if there is sufficient interest.

S26-0130P, Judge Jarvis Returns

Date: Jan 30, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Loc: PWC Courthouse, 3d Fl, Courtroom 5, 9311 Lee Ave

Speaker: Judge William Jarvis

Desc: Judge William Jarvis returns to continue his always popular discussions of topics currently at the forefront of the judicial system. High profile trials, policing practices, and other legal issues are always in the news. How should we look at these headlines? What do we need to know to understand them? Judge Jarvis answers these questions for us, speaking about what he thinks are the important issues, as well as those which you would like to know more about.

FEBRUARY

S26-0206A, The Benefits of Strength Training for Life's Journey

Date: Feb 2, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: via Zoom.

Speaker: Eric Levitan, founder and CEO of Vivo

Desc: This zoom class will consist of a 60-minute webinar with Vivo founder and CEO, Eric Levitan Did you know we start losing muscle as early as age 30, and this loss accelerates after 60, impacting balance, mobility, bone density, and independence? Join us for a dynamic session on how building strength supports better health, sharper cognition, and improved quality of life as we age. You'll learn science-backed strategies to get started safely (and stick with it!) plus enjoy a short demonstration with time for Q&A.

S26-0202P, The History and Evolution of Classical Guitar Music

Date: Feb 2, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Desc: This program will explore the history and evolution of classical guitar music, including its various composers, performers, and teachers. Professor Trkula will introduce a standard repertoire of all different eras, show demonstrations of technique, and dive into the Spanish roots of the guitar in advance of Pablo Sainz Villega's Spanish Nights performance. Part concert, part lecture, with time at the end for Q&A.

Speaker: Matt Trkula is a professor of classical guitar at George Mason University's Sid and Reva Dewberry School of Music and the guitar director at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, Virginia. He holds degrees from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and George Mason University. A student of Clare Callahan, Larry Snitzler, and Oscar Ghiglia, professor Trkula specializes in the Segovia style and classical guitar history and pedagogy.

S26-0204P, Staying Out of the Dental Chair

Date: Feb 4, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Dr. Kimberley Olsen

Desc: In this forum Dr. Olsen will discuss the common oral problems faced by seniors, including dry mouth, tooth decay, and tooth loss. She will review potential tooth replacement options and will provide an overview of preventative tips for a comfortable, functional, yet beautiful mouth for years to come.

S26-0205A, Discover AI in Everyday Life

Date: Feb 5, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Dar al-Noor Islamic Community Center, 5404 Hoadly Rd

Speaker: Cherie Lejeune

Desc: Learn how Artificial Intelligence is shaping daily routines for personal use, work, and volunteer roles—and how you can make it work for you. In this friendly, hands-on session, we'll explain AI in plain language, show practical uses from smart assistants to helpful apps, and let you try tools that can add convenience, creativity, and fun to everyday life.

S26-0209P, Finding a Place for Everything: What to Do about All That Stuff

Date: Feb 9, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Kelly Tait

Desc: As seniors, we need to manage a lifetime's accumulation of keepsakes, collections, documents, furnishings, books, photos, and more. Often, we must downsize and declutter to move to a new home, and the task can seem overwhelming. Professional organizer Kelly Tait's presentation will assist attendees in finding strategies and inspiration to simplify their living spaces and take greater control of their possessions. If you've wondered what to do with all your 'stuff,' please join us for this practical, encouraging session.

S26-0211A, Crypto 101

Date: Feb 11, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams St., Manassas Park

Speakers: Jorge Herrada and Laura Walker

Desc: Two experts will explain cryptocurrency, including a discussion of crypto markets and investment scams to avoid.

S26-0211P, A Taste of Home

Date: Feb 11, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr

Fee: \$5/person cash at the event.

Host: David Born, PWC Historic Programs Coordinator

Desc: On this return trip to Ben Lomond Historic Site, the focus will be on how the other half lived during the 18th and 19th centuries. The class will explore the house in a program called Every Day Full of Work, during which time the site staff will introduce us to the work performed by the enslaved while building Ben Lomond and in living day to day on the farm. Then, in the slave quarter, we will learn about foods brought to this country from Africa and how these foods became part of southern cuisine. The presentation will include a cooking demonstration and tasting.

S26-0212P, Battle of the Wabash

Date: Feb 12, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Mike Devine, LTC USAF (Ret)

Desc: The Battle of the Wabash, also known as St. Clair's Defeat, is a little-known battle that occurred in November 1791 in what is today west-central Ohio. A force of some 1400 regular US Army and militia soldiers under the command of Major General Arthur St. Clair was attacked by a slightly smaller Indian coalition. In terms of the soldier death toll, the Wabash was the worst defeat ever inflicted upon the US Army and associated militia units by Native American forces. This presentation will describe how white American settlements in the Northwest Territory angered Indian tribes, leading to violence between the two groups, and how that violence led to calls for the US Army to pacify the Indians.

S26-0126P, Join the Line and Dance

Date: Feb 16, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Desc: See Jan 26 listing for description and location.

S26-0120A, Women in the Bible

Date: Feb 17, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: March 24, April 21

Desc: See Jan 20 listing for description and location.

S26-0115P, Basic Poetry Class

Date: Feb 19, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: Mar 26, Apr 23, May 7

Desc: See January 15 listing for description and location.

S26-0223A, Wildlife Photography in Canada

Date: Feb 23, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln.

Speaker: Louise Noyes

Desc: Louise will share photographs taken during two spectacular trips to Canada in 2025. The first trip was to Newfoundland during the peak migratory season for seabirds and mammals as they converged in the northwest Atlantic Ocean to take advantage of the fish crowding into the coastal region to spawn. The second trip was to Hudson's Bay when polar bears gather along the coast waiting for the Bay to freeze over so they can hunt for food. Was it a prime opportunity for photography or did climate change alter behaviors? Join us and find out!

FEBRUARY

S26-0226P, Exploring Ireland: The Emerald Isle

Date: Feb 26, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln., Manassas

Speaker: Donald McAndrews

Desc: Since 2015 Don McAndrews has traveled to Ireland every year, sometimes twice a year. The countryside is truly beautiful, and the terrain is diverse and spectacular. From Dublin to the Wicklow mountains, to Wexford and the wild Atlantic coast, on to Galway, then Belfast where the Titanic was built. Join Don for a tour of all that the Emerald Isle has to offer.

MARCH

S26-0302A, Civil War Baptism of Fire: First Battle of Bull Run

Date: March 2, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Gene Schmiel

Desc: In the summer of 1861, both North and South brimmed with confidence that a single, glorious victory would end the conflict before it truly began. Everyone believed that decisive clash would unfold at Manassas. As a result, every soldier worth his salt—and one remarkable woman—rushed to take part in what they imagined would be the war's grand finale. Gene Schmiel will examine not only the famed leaders but also the lesser-known figures who faced combat at First Bull Run on July 21, 1861, and who found their footing—and their destiny—on that fateful field.

Copies of Gene's book, *Civil War Baptism of Fire: First Battle of Bull Run*, will be available for purchase.

S26-0302P, The Golden Era at The Washington Post

Date: March 2, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Bob Levey

Desc: Retired *Washington Post* journalist Bob Levey will tell all about being the first reporter hired by the legendary editor, Ben Bradlee. Then about sitting between Woodward and Bernstein during Watergate. Then about his first name basis friendship with Katharine Graham. Then about the turmoil at today's *Post*, and finally, a bit about his book, *Larry Felder, Candidate*. Signed copies of Bob's book will be available for purchase for \$20. Cash, checks and all major credit cards accepted.

S26-0304A, Urology Health for Adults: Practical Strategies for Wellness

Date: March 4, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Katie Riley, PA

Desc: Join UVA Health's Katie Riley, PA for an informative session on important urologic health topics that impact older adults. This talk will cover common concerns and practical strategies to maintain urinary health as we age. You'll learn about: overactive bladder and leakage; UTIs after menopause; pelvic organ prolapses, prostate health and bladder cancer awareness. Bring your questions for an engaging discussion designed to empower you with knowledge and resources to support your health and well-being.

S26-0305P, The Venice Plays: Shakespeare's Global Stories

Date: March 5, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Christina Romanelli, PhD

Desc: "*The Merchant of Venice*" and "*Othello: The Moor of Venice*" provide a glimpse into a global early modern period that is often overlooked by lovers of Shakespeare. Setting as many plays in Italy as he did in England was not an accident. In Shakespeare's time Italy, not yet a unified country, was a geographical center of many important trade routes and diverse societies. In contrast, England with its multiple exclusion acts, must have seemed provincial and isolated for a man who loved dramatic stories. Dr. Romanelli's talk will discuss first Othello and Portia's suitors as creations born from changing understandings of Africa, and then the law in "*The Merchant of Venice*" as a character that devolves from valuing the lively market to viewing outsiders as less than human.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: March 9, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

LLI Coordinator: Elizabeth Crawford

Desc: A rotation of seasoned writers will lead the weekly sessions. Participants will receive inspiration, ideas, examples, and prompts from various sources and will have in-class time to write and share their writing. Each class will include time to learn from, write with, and listen to fellow writers. Our guide for the spring semester will be *Writing About Your Life by William Zinsser*.

S26-0311A, Tour of the Life Sciences and Engineering Building at George Mason University

Date: March 11, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Life Sciences & Engineering Building, GMU, 10930 George Mason Cir

Max class size: 20, with a wait list. Enrollment is limited. Please register only if you are confident you can attend.

Note: Information regarding parking will be provided in advance of the event.

Host: Dr. Leigh McCue

Desc: This tour of the newly opened Mechanical Engineering spaces of the Life Sciences and Engineering Building will showcase educational laboratories designed to enable learning in aerospace engineering, advanced manufacturing, robotics, materials characterization, thermo-fluid systems, sustainable energy, and prototyping. Come explore the latest addition to GMU's Manassas campus.

S26-0312A, The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies

Date: March 12, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Paul Severance

Desc: Although the official historical record confirms that John Wilkes Booth and a small group of accomplices assassinated Abraham Lincoln and attempted to kill other top government officials, numerous alternative—and often fascinating—conspiracy theories have surfaced and gained varying degrees of acceptance over the past 160 years. Almost immediately after the event, various theories began to circulate, evolving over time to implicate organizations such as the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Pius IX, the U.S. War Department and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, the Confederate government, and certain disaffected factions within Northern society. These theories have persisted into the modern era and remain subjects of considerable intrigue. This presentation will seek to explore these major conspiracy theories, tracing their origins and examining the purported evidence behind the seven principal theories linked to Lincoln's assassination.

S26-0312P, Clergywomen Today: Three Diverse Perspectives

Date: March 12, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir
Panel: Rev. Kathryn L. Pocalyko, Senior Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church; Rabbi Elizabeth (Lizz) Goldstein, Congregation New Shalom; Mother Philene M. Ware Dunn, Trinity Episcopal Church.

Desc: The 1970s marked a transformative period for American women, particularly in religious leadership. Breaking longstanding gender barriers in faith communities, this era saw the ordination of the first female Lutheran pastor (1970), Reform rabbi (1972), and Episcopal priest (1974). In this panel discussion with Rev. Pocalyko, Rabbi Lizz, and Mother Philene, we will examine their religious backgrounds, motivations for entering the ministry, challenges encountered, current issues in their roles, and perspectives on how their experiences as women may differ from those of their male counterparts. This promises to be an engaging and insightful conversation on the evolving role of women in religious leadership today.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: March 16, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Desc: See March 9 listing for description and location.

S26-0317P, Annaburg Historic House Tour

Date: March 17, 1:30 to 02:30 pm

Loc: Annaburg Historic Home Guided Tour, 9201 Maple St
Max class size: 20. Enrollment is limited. Please register only if you are confident you can attend.

Note: The house has three levels including a steep staircase. A wheelchair ramp leads to the front porch and provides access to the first floor only. Access to the other floors is by stairway only.

Fee: \$3 in cash at the door

Hosts: Manassas Museum Staff

Desc: Take a trip to the past with this historic house tour. Recently renovated and open to the public, Annaburg served many purposes throughout the years. Originally built in 1892, the then 2,000-acre property was once a central feature and the pride of Manassas. Today, the house sits on 3.65 acres and is one of the City of Manassas's newest parks. A member of the Manassas Museum staff will guide our tour.

S26-0319P, Space Art from the National Air and Space Museum

Date: March 19, 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Re-scheduled from the Fall 2025 semester.

Loc: Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams St., Manassas Park

Speaker: Carolyn Russo

Desc: Curator Carolyn Russo will present the history of space exploration seen in this little-known collection from the late nineteenth century to the present. She will introduce Étienne Léopold Trouvelot's late 1800s astronomical observations, Chesley Bonestell's "scientific" space art illustrations for Collier's, Norman Rockwell's paintings for Look magazine at NASA, and the work of other artists including Robert Rauschenberg and Alma Thomas. She will also consider works from these artists and others as agents of public persuasion, documentation, and reflection of a national space program.

S26-0323A, Preserve Your Memories NOW!

Date: March 23, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: RELIC Center: Central Library; 8601 Mathis Ave

Max class size: 20. Enrollment is limited. Please register only if you are confident you can attend.

Host: Mary Kitiyakara, Prince William Public Library RELIC Supervisor

Desc: Old family photos, slides, Super 8 reels, VHS tapes, and other cherished media no longer must gather dust. RELIC's new Digital Preservation Lab at Central Library has the solution. Much like the makerspaces, the Digital Preservation Lab provides free-to-use equipment to digitize and share precious family memories. The session will include an overview of RELIC resources and a live demonstration of the equipment.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: March 23, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Desc: See March 9 listing for description and location.

S26-0120A, Women in the Bible

Date: Mar 24, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: April 21

Desc: See Jan 20 listing for description and location.

S26-0115P, Basic Poetry Class

Date: Mar 26, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: Apr 23, May 7

Desc: See January 15 listing for description and location.

S26-0330A, The Search for the Smallest Thing, Part 2:

Date: March 30, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: April 6, April 13, April 20

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln.

Speaker: Mark Dodge

Desc: For thousands of years, people have wondered what the Universe is made of and if there is a "smallest thing" from which everything else is made. Today, we call this area of science "Particle Physics." In the late 19th and 20th centuries, research led to major new understandings of the way atoms work. In the process, hundreds of new subatomic particles were found. This class is the story of these discoveries and understandings. We'll meet lots of interesting people and explore their experiments and see how the current understanding of what the smallest thing is began to develop.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: March 30, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27

Desc: See March 9 listing for description and location.

S26-0401A, Hylton Performing Arts Center: Behind the Scenes

Date: April 1, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Max class size: 30

Note: Enrollment is limited to 30 people. Please register only if you are confident you can attend.

Hosts: Marit Majeske, Mark Ormesher, Kevin Douglas Smith

Desc: Have you ever wondered what it takes to bring performances to life on stage? Join Hylton Center staff members for a deep dive into the Hylton Performing Arts Center including an overview of its history and programs. After an introductory presentation we'll take a tour of the building including the backstage and support areas as well as the technical elements we use to bring performances to life. Join us for an opportunity to see the stage from a different perspective.

Biographies: Marit Majeske is the Education Coordinator of the Hylton Performing Arts Center and has been part of the Hylton Center staff since it opened in 2010. Mark Ormesher has been an Audio Engineer and AV technician at the Hylton Center since 2011. Kevin Douglas Smith has been the Technical Director at the Hylton Performing Arts Center since its opening in May 2010.

S26-0401P, Remembering Jane Goodall

Date: April 1, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Linda Berdine

Desc: Dr. Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace, was a remarkable example of courage and conviction, working tirelessly throughout her life to raise awareness about threats to wildlife, promote conservation, and inspire a more harmonious, sustainable relationship between people, animals, and the natural world. Linda traveled with Jane Goodall crisscrossing the United States, Africa, and Europe supporting Jane's mission of empowering world-wide stewards of planet earth. Linda met Jane 33 years ago. Join us as Linda introduces the two Janes she came to know: the personal and the icon.

S26-0402A, Morocco: Working Modern Magic on an Ancient World

Date: April 2, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Loc: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Cir

Speaker: Joyce Johnston

Desc: Morocco offers shining beaches, lush gardens, exquisite architecture, and a modern Islamic state, side by side with ancient marketplaces and donkey carts on interstate highways. How did this grow out of 1800 years of violence, foreign domination and betrayal after betrayal after betrayal?

Once it seemed that the only way to preserve Morocco's sophisticated culture was to export it to the Moorish Kingdom in Medieval Spain. Then came eviction, chaos, infighting, and finally a French protectorate that yielded real independence only in 1956. Since then, education and legal rights have moved steadily forward, but the social price has been veiled in secrecy. Joyce Johnston will guide us through the open question: what is really going on now in this supposedly most moderate of Islamic states?

S26-0330A, The Search for the Smallest Thing, Part 2:

Date: Apr 6, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: April 13, April 20

Desc: See March 30 listing for description and location.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: April 6, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: April 13, 20, 27

Desc: See March 9 listing for description and location.

S26-0408P, Positive Vibes Only

Date: April 8, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Hansen

Desc: How do we experience despair and frustration and find joy each day? Guided by Dr. Hansen, this session will explore the concepts of intentional positivity, emotional resilience, and post traumatic growth. Be warned...this is not a sunshine and roses positivity lecture. This is a real and raw look at how we encounter and tackle hard things in all aspects of life, how to be prepared for the unexpected, and how Dr. Hansen developed her version of Positive Vibes Only (PVO) through the cancer journey of her late husband.

S26-0330A, The Search for the Smallest Thing, Part 2:

Date: Apr 13, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Additional dates: April 20

Desc: See March 30 listing for description and location.

S26-0309P, Writing Workshop

Date: April 13, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Additional dates: April 20, 27

Desc: See March 9 listing for description and location.

S26-0415P, LLI Tours the North Pacific Rim

Date: April 15, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Loc: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln

Speakers: David and Mary Pace

Desc: Join David and Mary on a captivating voyage along the North Pacific Rim—an unforgettable journey that began in the bustling heart of Tokyo and concluded with a spectacular cruise through the Inside Passage to the rugged coasts and quiet splendors of southwestern Canada. In this class, you'll retrace their epic adventure and relive its exotic sights, sounds, and stories.

S26-0416P, Police Canine Demonstration

Date: April 16, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Loc: Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams St., Manassas Park

Note: Weather permitting the demonstration will be outside. Bring a chair.

Speaker: Sgt. Brian Sproule

Desc: Come and meet Sergeant Brian Sproule with K9 Brody. The list of the areas in which canines assist modern day police departments is impressive. Canine teams work regular uniform patrol citywide and respond to a variety of calls including burglaries, article searches, suspect/victim tracking, lost individuals, searches for suspects, narcotics, explosives, and officer-safety assists. Sgt. Sproule will share information about the canines of the Manassas Park Police Department, their training, workday, and of course life after hours at home with their handlers.

S26-0330A, The Search for the Smallest Thing, Part 2:**Date:** Apr 20, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**Desc:** See March 30 listing for description and location.**S26-0309P, Writing Workshop****Date:** April 20, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Additional dates:** April 27**Desc:** See March 9 listing for description and location.**S26-0120A, Women in the Bible****Date:** Apr 21, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**Desc:** See Jan 20 listing for description and location.**S26-0422A, Annual Membership Business Meeting and Luncheon****Date:** April 22, 10:45 am to 1:30 pm**Note:** Last day to sign up or cancel is April 1st. Complimentary lunch is for registered members only.**Loc:** Regency Clubhouse, 15351 Championship Dr, Haymarket**Host:** LLI President, Ann Cain**Desc:** Hear 'The state of LLI Manassas,' vote for new LLI officers and directors, watch an entertaining video of LLI members at classes and on trips.**S26-0115P, Basic Poetry Class****Date:** Apr 23, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Additional dates:** May 7**Desc:** See January 15 listing for description and location.**S26-0309P, Writing Workshop****Date:** April 27, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Desc:** See March 9 listing for description and location.

MAY

S26-0506A, The Historical Development of Clifton, VA – A Walking Tour**Date:** May 6, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**Loc:** A Walking Tour of Clifton, VA**Speaker:** Mr. Charles Rusnak**Desc:** Join us for Charles Rusnak's presentation on Historic Clifton, as he leads us through the town's evolution from its beginnings as a humble farming village and plantation to its present role as a peaceful oasis. Our journey continues with a walking tour of Clifton, visiting several original homes and businesses that are integral to the community's history and development. The walking route covers approximately one mile and includes frequent stops to allow for immersive learning and reflection.**S26-0115P, Basic Poetry Class****Date:** May 7, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Desc:** See January 15 listing for description and location.

**For a detailed description of classes
and club activities, refer to the Spring
2026 Program Guide on the website at
www.lli-manassas.org/Spring2026**

JUNE

S26-0603A, Crab Fest & Cruise**Date:** June 3, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm**Note:** Friday, April 24, last day to register for trip. Monday, April 20, last day to cancel for a refund. Participants will need to climb one set of stairs to the second deck of the boat.**LLI Coordinator:** David Pace**Desc:** Get ready for a day full of fun, flavor, and adventure! Climb aboard our comfy bus in Manassas and head out to Hurlock, MD, where an authentic 80-foot, turn-of-the-century style paddle wheeler awaits. Once on board, you'll enjoy three unforgettable hours cruising the beautiful Choptank River while dining on an all-you-can-eat crab feast! The menu is loaded with pick-your-own crabs, Maryland crab soup, fried chicken, clam strips, corn on the cob, coleslaw, and assorted cheesecakes. Non-alcoholic beverages are included. A cash bar is available.**See LLI website for important information regarding this event.**

ONGOING

S26-BOOK, Book Club**Date:** Jan 28, 1:30 to 3:00 pm**Additional dates:** Feb 25, March 25, April 29, May 27.**Loc:** Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln**LLI Coordinator:** Lianetta Ruettgers**Desc:** Books, both fiction and non-fiction, are selected by the members who are encouraged to lead a discussion. The discussions are educational, interesting, and fun for all, including those who may not have finished reading the book.**S26-GAMES, Game Day Club****Date:** Jan 16, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Additional dates:** every Friday afternoon**Loc:** Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Ln**LLI Coordinators:** Kathy Hernandez and Julia Martin**Desc:** Please join us for a variety of card and board games every Friday afternoon for two hours of fun, laughter, a good time, and a monthly birthday party. All experience levels are welcome.**S26-LUNCH, Lunch Club****Date:** Feb 6, 12:00 to 1:30 pm**Additional dates:** March 6, April 3, May 1**Loc:** Juke Box Diner, 8637 Sudley Rd**LLI Coordinator:** Mary Foster**Desc:** The Lunch Club invites LLI members to enjoy a meal together and become better acquainted with each other. There is no planned program or topic. Wear your nametag and learn the names of your tablemates. Participants pay for their own lunch.**S26-MHJNG, Mah Jongg Club****Date:** Jan 13, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**Additional dates:** every Tuesday afternoon**Loc:** Juke Box Diner, 8637 Sudley Rd**LLI Coordinator:** Kathy Fowler**Desc:** Every Tuesday afternoon, we meet for fun, laughter, and a good time. All levels of experience are welcome, from beginners through master players.



LLI-Manassas
PO Box 284
Haymarket, VA 20168

LLI-MANASSAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$75 if joining in January. This covers Spring semester only.

\$125 if joining or renewing in January. This covers participation for two consecutive semesters (Fall and Spring).

First Name: _____ MI: _____

Last Name: _____

Preferred LLI Badge Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Your personal information will not be shared or sold to anyone outside the LLI-Manassas organization.
- Photographs: By becoming a member of LLI and participating in classes and other activities, you may be photographed and your picture may appear in our publications or on our website.

Mail with check to: LLI-Manassas, PO Box 284, Haymarket, VA 20168