

Greater Lexington Newcomers

Meetings 1st Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30 AM Each Month Except August & December

EDITOR: Deb Bodner – newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org

WEB SITE: John Ekin - www.lexvanewcomers.org

Vol. 30 Issue 5 – February 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

It was great to see everyone again at the February meeting. We had several new members join our regulars and were treated to a guest speaker, Maj. Grace Moyer, from the VMI Museum System talking about the new happenings at Jackson House.

We're in great financial shape and we don't have any real commitments ahead of us except for the Spring/Summer Event. We'll figure out what that will be over the coming months. We'll also start looking for a group trip to the Masonic Theater, or The Wayne Theater or something like that over the next couple of months. Stay tuned. Anyway, welcome back everyone. Hopefully things will start opening up soon.

Jack

A bit of Newcomers history can be found at the end of the newsletter. The newspaper article about the beginning of the Newcomers club was recently discovered and we are happy to share it.

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Jack Littley

Vice President

Larry Spurgeon

Treasurer

John Ekin

Corresponding Secretary

Claudette Benavitch

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities

Jo Ritterbusch

Hospitality

Carol Humphries
Janet Gibson

Membership

Marilou Schindler

Name Tags

Marilou Schindler

Welcome

Pat Anthony

Publicity



TREASURERS REPORT
January 2022
Submitted by John Ekin



THINKING OF YOU

Prior Balance	\$ 9,500.63
Total Income	\$ 223.64
Dues	\$ 170.00
Christmas party	\$ 30.00
PayPal Test Payment*	\$ 23.64
Total Expenses	\$ (5188.91)
VMI party	\$ (5163.91)
PayPal Refund for Test Payment less fee*	\$ (25.00)
Current Balance	\$ 4,535.36
As of January 31, 2022	

Cards were sent to the following members:

A Sympathy card to Cynthia Tucker for the loss of her husband Wendell

A Get Well/Recovery care to Barbara Ekin who recently had hand surgery.

Please let me know when there is a need for a card to be sent and I will respond.

Claudette Benavitch, Corresponding Secretary
secretary@lexvanewcomers.org

*John tested paying dues via PayPal and found there is a service fee of \$1.36. The question was raised about how many members would use PayPal if it was offered. We are informally surveying the general membership: PayPal, yes or no. Please respond to either John Ekin at jmax806@live.com or Jack Littley at drjack12@gmail.com



PHOTOGRAPHS

Please send your activity photos for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org

MEMBERSHIP



We have 208 paid members. If you are not sure if you paid your dues or wish to be dropped, please contact me by email at marilous@aol.com

Any changes, i.e., email, phone number or address, should be forwarded to me at membership@lexvanewcomers.org

Correction: Marc Warburton's email should be m.warb172@icloud.com

Please welcome new members since December:

David and Mary Ellen Folsom
46 Chamberlain Loop
Lexington, VA 24450
mefolsom@gmail.com
dafolsom@gmail.com

Lisa and Joel Zanni
13 Hunter Hill Extension Rd
Lexington, VA 24450
Lzanni970@gmail.com
info@bluefrogscompany.com

Lucy and Reginald Wallace
150 Forest Hill View
Lexington, VA 24450
rydnldy@aol.com
regwallace1@gmail.com

Holly Byerly
95 Blue Hills Lane
Lexington, VA 24450
seakego@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

Jo Ritterbusch is the new chair for events for groups. If you hear or know of concerts, plays, movies, etc., that might appeal the members, pass the information along to Jo and she can investigate further. Her email is blueridgecorgis@gmail.com.

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest group participants must be members of Newcomers. To join an interest group, call or email the contact person.



BUNKO

If you are vaccinated, the fourth Thursday morning Bunco group has resumed in-person playing. If you are interested in learning an easy dice game of chance, as well as having an opportunity to spend the morning with friends, join us. After a light breakfast is served by the hostess, the group plays from 9:00 to 10:45-11:00. Please call or email Diana Hopkins if you are interested, 540-348-6946 or vatxrok@me.com.

Come roll with the Bunko ladies! If you are vaccinated, the Wednesday Bunko group will be playing in person on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. We have an opening for regular members, as well as taking names for subs for this group. If you would like to learn to play, we would love to teach you. For more information, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at spurgchick@gmail.com or 540-460-1654.



CANASTA

There are two daytime canasta groups. One group of eight, "The Black 3's", plays on the second Tuesday of each month and the other group of eight, "The Red 3's", plays on the third Tuesday of each month. Each group meets in the home of a member of that group for a fun afternoon of cards, snacks and dessert.

If you would like to become a sub for one or both groups, please contact Cynthia Tucker, 463-3344, cmtucker@comcast.net.

The third Canasta group, "Canasteez", meets the 2nd Friday of the month with the start time at the discretion of the host. Each person will bring a dish for a light dinner before the cards are dealt. We usually have 2 tables of 4, sometimes 3 tables of 4, but always have a great time. We are looking for the ol' gang as well as any other new Canasta players. Not ready to commit? There is always a need for subs. If you are interested or have questions please contact Jo Ritterbusch, blueridgecorgis@gmail.com or call or text, 845-661 9075.

PINOCHLE

There are currently nine pinochle players. However, several players head south for the winter so are not available to play on the second Wednesday of each month, from 1:30-4:30. More players are needed as substitutes so we can play two tables of four. Hosting is rotated among the players, with hosts providing a dessert and a beverage at "half time". We play two games of double deck pinochle. If you don't know how to play pinochle, you are welcome to come and watch, and ask questions. It is a fun game. Call Marilou Schindler at 291-2992 for more information.

BOARD SILLY

Newcomers newest group, "Board Silly", is now 'traipsing' around the gameboards at full steam! We meet on the 1st Friday of the month. Start time is at the discretion of the host. Each gamer takes a turn hosting, and selects the game of the day! So far, we have played Tripoley and Monopoly, and I am happy to report all Board Sillies got out of jail free! Can't wait to see where our 'boardwalking' takes us in 2022!

If you are interested in joining us, contact JoAnn Ritterbusch at blueridgecorgis@gmail.com or call or text, 845-661 9075.



MORNING COFFEE (OR TEA)

The ladies' Coffee Club meets the second Friday of every month at 10 a.m. generally at Sweet Treats. Email Pat Thompson at Ptapex@aol.com for more information.



DINING OUT

Each quarter volunteer hosts select a restaurant of their choice (usually within an hour of Lexington) and make reservations for a group of 6 to 8 (including the hosts). Group members then sign up to join their hosts for a meal out!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at (540) 460-1654 or spurgchick@gmail.com. I will be happy to explain in more detail how dining out is conducted.

DINING IN

Fine Dining to Resume in April. Although the ongoing Covid pandemic led to cancellation of both the fall and winter sessions, two new couples have joined the Fine Dining interest group: Ashley & Glenn Mon and JoAnn & Billy Grose. The group currently has 45 members.

Coordinator Sharon Littlepage said that beginning in March, all members will be contacted via email to sign up as hosts for the spring session (April, May, and June). In a departure from previous years, summer dinners in July and August will also be under consideration.

For additional information about Fine Dining, contact Sharon at s.littlepage@comcast or (865) 368-8604.



WINE TASTING GROUP

The wine tasting group is up to 31! While some of us would like to wait until spring to start, there were several who forge ahead with a fall tasting. In the spring and summer we'll have many more hosts so everyone who wishes to attend should be able to!

Some people are getting failure to deliver notices when they send an email to sallycan@verizon.net, even though emails are going through. This email address is good, but please feel free to text me at 703-593-5963 at any time if you like. I work full time and cannot always respond to emails and texts right away, but I will try to get back with you just as soon as I can! Thanks, Sally Canatsey



HIKING GROUP

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. Each week Don (or his appointee) announces where the hike will be including a relative degree of difficulty and elevation. If you would like to be on the email list, email Don Brooke, donbrooke@gmail.com, or Debbie Maurer, 2mtprs@gmail.com



NEWSPAPER ARTICLE - INFORMATION

GREATER LEXINGTON NEWCOMERS

THE PURPOSE OF THE GREATER LEXINGTON NEWCOMERS IS TO PROVIDE A MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE "NEW" TO LEXINGTON AND ITS ENVIRONS TO ENABLE THEM TO MEET OTHERS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS AND TO FACILITATE LEARNING ABOUT THE LEXINGTON AREA AND ITS ACTIVITIES. "NEWCOMER" IS NOT DEFINED BY ANY SPECIFIC TIME FRAME AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

THE INFORMAL GATHERINGS WILL TAKE PLACE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE HOME OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS, BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. THE FIRST OF THESE MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3RD, AT THE HOME OF URSULA KEELEY, 417 HONEYSUCKLE HILL, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA. FOR DIRECTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 463-5118/463-4608/463-1975

THE ORIGINATORS OF THIS NEW ORGANIZATION ARE:

MRS. LYNN O'CONNOR 463-6408

MRS. URSULA KEELEY ~~463-5118~~

(463-7902)

MRS. CAROLYN MORGAN 463-1975

The Weekender

The News-Gazette Corp.

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Newcomers

Club Helps New Arrivals Discover Each Other, Surrounding Area

By DEBORAH SENNARAUGH

The room was warm and full of smiles. I sat and plotted: Maybe, just maybe, I could move away from the Rockbridge area for a couple of years and then come back again. Then I'd be a newcomer, too. Just like these wonderful people who had never met one another before this morning, but who were instantly sympathetic, helpful and destined to be good friends.

"I mentioned to Lynn (O'Connor) a couple months ago that we needed a group like this for those new to the area. Many are not affiliated with the colleges and have trouble getting acquainted. Lynn said 'Let's do it.' She contacted Caroline Morgan and they got it going right away," explains Ursula Keely, herself a newcomer to Honeysuckle Hill in Lexington four years ago.

"We thought that if we could get together once a month, people could find friends, or others with the same hobby, or a group for activities." - Ursula Keely

"We thought that if we could get together once a month, people could find friends, or others with the same hobby, or a group for activities," Keely says. Her idea is like the spreading of spring with sunshine and flowers and budding leaves. In fact, the group that gathered last week at her home couldn't have been more enthusiastic.

Also present at the meeting was Lee RiCharde, the local "Welcome Representative." In her job with the Lexington Downtown Development Association, RiCharde calls on newcomers to the area and presents them with gifts from local merchants and helpful information about their new area.

And, of course, there were the newcomers themselves, a wonderful

cross-section of people from many places — a roster that rivals the great Valley migration of the early 1800s that gave us some of our finest Rockbridge families.

Katie Kain has lived near Fancy Hill for six years. Her husband, Don Brown, plays golf and tennis. They love animals and country living.

Shirley Dent moved here from Chicago four years ago. She loves walking, gardening, out-of-door activities. "It is hard to meet people and become a part of the community," she observes, saying a real plus in living here is that her son lives in Harrisonburg so she gets to see her grandchildren frequently.

Susan Luthi came here from Colorado, "and I'm still don't know what I want to do when I grow up," she quips. Her husband was with Transworld Airlines for 28 years, and the couple ended up in Buena Vista.

"Our granddaughters are here," she explains.

Dorothy Welly ended up on 1-16 acres south of Brownsburg when her husband retired. She's an elementary school teacher and has been here two years from New Jersey.

Molly Brown has only been here three weeks, but likes it here better than on Long Island where she is from. "After a few hurricanes and big floods, we are some of the Yankees who have come on down. And it sounds like there are a lot of good things going on here," she says.

Louise Mitchell came here from Cape Cod, Mass., in October, also after a couple of hurricanes. "We had a wonderful newcomers club there," she tells, adding that she likes to take art courses. Interspersed with the comments about themselves, others chime in about trails to hike, classes to take and events in the community. The information exchange is greeted with enthusiasm. Like beggars sharing information about bread, this is why these friendship-hungry people have come to the Newcomers meeting — to get to know this different and wonderful place called Rockbridge.

Lurie Cady and her husband John are from Long Island where he retired from teaching. They have purchased a lot on Trimble Ridge and are ready for their next adventure — building their house. "Lexington is a

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jewel. We just kept on coming back here," Mrs. Cady said of their travels.

Bruce King came here from San Juan and Pueblo, N.M. He is into photography and is looking for a critique group. He's also doing Civil War research for a book-length project.

Patricia Arnold Boyd moved here in August. Her husband works at Washington and Lee, and she's originally from Texas. She formerly was the tour supervisor at Monticello and is looking for a job here.

Linda Davis, also from Texas, has been here since July when her husband arrived to teach at W&L. She already volunteers at Central Elementary School and at the Stonewall Jackson House. She plays cello in the Rockbridge orchestra and has two teenagers. Remodeling chores at the family's old house are almost complete. "Lexington is a fascinating place," she observes.

Leslie Hardy has been here one year, from Fairfax, and is a gardener. "We love it here," she says of herself and her husband. "A neighbor took us under her wing and feel we

band fell in love with the "absolutely gorgeous" area while camping with their son. They live in Raphine and have been here less than one year.

"I've had projects on the back burner for years," confesses Sherry Mang, who is married to a retired Marine who is a VMI alum pursuing a doctorate at Virginia Tech. She's welcoming the time to pursue her projects now.

Kathy Pfeifer is from Brooklyn, N.Y., and now lives on a mini-farm with sheep, cows, chickens, dogs and cats. "And this summer I canned vegetables; that was a new experience for me," she shares.

The group has decided to meet the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at someone's house. The April meeting will be at Lynn O'Connor's at 609 Marshall St.

And on the agenda for the newcomers are trips, hikes, picnics, and any activity that catches their fancy. So, if you see a group of smiling folks who are busy looking around and oohing and aahing at the scenery and quality of life that so many of us take for granted, stop and share their