

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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**Vol. 31 Issue 4 – January 2023**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

I hope everyone fared well through the holidays, and we now embark on a new year. By now you have heard about the cancellation of our January business meeting, because the country club is closed until January 11. We decided not to reschedule the meeting, and will next meet on Wednesday, February 1.

The attendance at the holiday party on December 7, at the Horse Center, was about 115 – a good turnout. The weather cooperated and it was great to see such a large and lively group. The decorations were great (thanks to the decorating committee), and everyone seemed to have a good time. (Pictures can be seen at the end of this newsletter and on Facebook.)

I don't have much else to report at this time, except to encourage you to participate in our various events. Please see the details in this newsletter for how to participate. Thanks to all of the chairs for their great work in supporting these interest groups – the true heart of our club. And we now have a wine tasting committee chair – Artie Shaw, thanks for his willingness to get that group moving again.

Enjoy January and I look forward to seeing you on February 1.

Larry Spurgeon



## TRAINING FOR NEW YOUTH LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Becky McKenzie would have spoken about the Youth Literacy Program at the January meeting. So, I am including information about the upcoming Tutor Training. As several Newcomer volunteer tutors can attest, working with students to improve their reading skills has many rewards.

To become a volunteer tutor, individuals must undergo a six-hour training. The next new tutor training will take place at the Rockbridge Regional Library in Lexington over three days: Monday, January 23; Wednesday, January 25; and Monday, January 30.

To apply to become a Youth Literacy tutor, or for more information about the Youth Literacy Program, contact Becky McKenzie at [bmckenzie@rrlib.net](mailto:bmckenzie@rrlib.net) or 540.463.4324. ext. 105.

### CLUB OFFICERS

#### President

Larry Spurgeon

#### Vice President

David Connolly

#### Treasurer

John Ekin

#### Corresponding Secretary

Claudette

Benavitch

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Activities

Aileen Spurgeon

#### Hospitality

Carol Humphries

Aileen Spurgeon

#### Membership

Marilou

Schindler

#### Name Tags

Marilou

Schindler

#### Welcome

Pat & Rich

Thompson

Glenn & Ashley

Mon

#### Publicity

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**December 2022**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**



**THINKING OF YOU**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 7,570.17</b>
From November 2022	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,305.00</b>
Dues	\$ 325.00
Holiday Party Income	\$ 980.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (5,242.76)</b>
Holiday Party Expenses	\$ (5,242.76)
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,632.41</b>
Reconciled with bank statement, December 31, 2022	

In December cards were sent to the following member:

A symphony card was sent to Sarah O'Hanlon for the death of her mother.

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](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)



**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Please send your activity photos for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at [webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org)



**MEMBERSHIP**

Our 2022-23 paid memberships to date are 195. A final email was sent to unpaid members recently. If dues are not paid by the end of January, your name will be removed from the membership roster and you will no longer receive correspondence from the Newcomers Club.

If you have any changes in information, please contact Marilou Schindler at 540-291-2992 or email [membership@lexnewcomers.org](mailto:membership@lexnewcomers.org).

Please welcome the following new members:

Martha Burford  
144 Windy Slope Ln  
Lexington, VA 24450  
[marthooo@gmail.com](mailto:marthooo@gmail.com)

Robert & Caroline Donnelly  
11 Jordan Street  
Lexington, VA 24450  
[rdpenumbra@gmail.com](mailto:rdpenumbra@gmail.com)  
[carolinedonnelly64@gmail.com](mailto:carolinedonnelly64@gmail.com)

## HOSPITALITY

Thanks so much to Joe and Grace Simcoe who opened up their lovely house for a small but delightful Newcomers Coffee/Tea on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Our newer members Charlie and Peggy Page and Steve Sanders and Mary Henslee joined veteran Newcomers Larry and Aileen Spurgeon, John and Barbara Ekins, Deb Bodner and Carol and Doug Humphries. The food and drink were fabulous, and it was really nice getting to know our new members.

Stay tuned for our next event!

## ACTIVITIES

The Activities Committee hosted a night at Lewis Ginter GardenFest in Richmond on November 28. Eighteen people participated in this event, having a buffet dinner in the Robins Room located in the Visitor Center, followed by each couple(s) touring and enjoying the spectacular lights throughout the vast garden and touring inside buildings with fairy houses, Holiday trees, miniature train display, and a giant decorated Holiday tree where you were encouraged to have your picture taken. We could not have asked for a more perfect weather. Everyone I asked indicated they enjoyed themselves and was glad they came. (A few pictures are posted at the end of the newsletter.)

## INTEREST GROUPS

*To join an interest group, call or email the contact person.*



### **BUNCO**

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](mailto: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](mailto:spurgchick@gmail.com) or 540-460-1654.



## CANASTA

"Canasteez", meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Lydia Shiver, [lshiver1053@gmail.com](mailto:lshiver1053@gmail.com)

## PINOCHLE

The pinochle group will play at the home of Marjorie Connolly on January 11. We play two games of double deck pinochle on the second Wednesday of the month on a rotating schedule at players' houses beginning at 2:00. At intermission, a dessert and beverage are served by the host. We complete the games by 4:30. We are seeking anyone interested in joining the pinochle group as a substitute when someone is unable to play on a given month. Interested members, call Marilou Schindler 291-2992.

## 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 2023!

If you are interested in joining us, contact JoAnn Ritterbusch at [blueridgecorgis@gmail.com](mailto: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 am, generally at Sweet Treats. Email Pat Thompson at [Ptapex@aol.com](mailto:Ptapex@aol.com) for more information.



### **DINING OUT**

Each quarter volunteer hosts select a restaurant of their choice (usually in Lexington or within an hour's drive 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!

We are currently starting the first quarter in 2023 (January-March). If you are interested in joining us, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at (540) 460-1654 or [spurgchick@gmail.com](mailto:spurgchick@gmail.com). I will be happy to explain in more detail how dining out is conducted.

### **DINING IN**

Fine Dining is underway for the winter session (January-March) with 12 couples participating.

Meeting new people and enjoying a themed, home-cooked meal might just be the ticket to get you out of the mid-winter malaise.

Openings are still available, so contact coordinator Sharon Littlepage at (865) 368-8604 or [s.littlepage@comcast.net](mailto:s.littlepage@comcast.net) to sign up. Guidelines are available on the Newcomers website.



### **WINE TASTING**

I will be putting a different spin on the wine club in 2023. The first tasting will take place in April with a specific date to be chosen at a later date. This year, the tastings will be about the wine. Each tasting will have a costar. Perhaps a tasting of exotic cheeses, or interesting cracker/bread options. The tastings will cost more but we will taste some phenomenal wines (perhaps in the 30-40 dollar per person range per tasting). I expect there to be 3-4 tastings this year. I don't expect to have as many people participating with this new program. It will be dedicated to wine lovers looking to learn and to explore and those that want to know which wine to buy for that special occasion. I would love to hear back from those that might be interested in participating in this adventure. Email me, Art Shaw, at [artie@snazybeads.com](mailto:artie@snazybeads.com) so I can begin to understand how many might be interested.



## 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](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com), or Debbie Maurer, [2mtprs@gmail.com](mailto:2mtprs@gmail.com)

## Picture album

From the Lewis Ginter Festival of Lights:





From the Holiday Party (from the Newcomers Facebook page where more can be found)



