

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

EDITOR: Deb Bodner – newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org

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Vol. 31 Issue 7 – April 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

The good news is that the country club was expecting us for our April 5 meeting and the doors were actually unlocked! But alas, it was not without incident because the setup was incomplete, and the staff took umbrage to being told about that. It is always something.

The turnout was good – 40 members and one guest. The guest speaker was Jim Kvach, a Newcomer, and a world-class gardener. He talked about gardening tips, what to plant and when, how to deal with, or work around, our unique soil in Rockbridge County, and many other useful things. Jim does yeoman's work for the food bank. By himself he produces several tons of vegetables, and helps to oversee the donations from gardeners throughout the county.

The interest groups continue to do well. Please check the newsletter below for details about the next event, a visit to Maymont in Richmond, an historic house and acres of gardens, including a Japanese garden.

Please note that the **May 3 meeting will be at 7:00 p.m.**, at the country club. We have talked about having an evening meeting once in a while, to accommodate our members who work during the day (a strange concept for those of us long retired), or otherwise have difficulty making it to a Wednesday morning meeting. The speaker will be Lauren Summers, the executive director of "Hull's Angels," the volunteer group who work the historic drive-in theater.

We will also present the slate of officers for next year at the May meeting, to be voted on at the June meeting.

And please come to our monthly Happy Hour from 5:00 to 7:00 at Devil's Backbone, on April 18. This will be the third installment – no need to RSVP – just show up. Until then...

Larry Spurgeon



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

Rich Hubbard

Welcome

Pat Thompson

Publicity

TREASURERS REPORT
February 2023
Submitted by John Ekin

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Prior Balance | \$ 3,801.62 |
| From November 2022 | |
| Total Income | \$ 75.00 |
| Dues | \$ 75.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ (270.50) |
| Country Club rent | \$ (170.00) |
| Gift certificates | \$ (100.00) |
| Service charge | \$ (00.50) |
| Current Balance | \$ 3,606.12 |
| Reconciled with bank statement, March 31, 2023 | |



THINKING OF YOU

Thinking of you card was sent to:
 Sharon Littlely who is recovering from 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



PHOTOGRAPHS

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



MEMBERSHIP

Our 2022-23 paid memberships to date are 212.

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

Please note the correct email for Elizabeth Hayden is Elizabet.hayden@att.net

HOSPITALITY

Can't make the morning meeting? Folks gathered at Devil's Backbone one evening last month for fellowship and good food and beverages. A casual event, this is meant for anyone to show up as they wish, just to catch up and exchange ideas about this lovely area we have all chosen to live in. We'll be having another get together, returning to Devil's Backbone, on Tuesday, 18 April, 5-7. Mark your calendars now!

New members Tea

Thanks so much to John and Barbara Ekin who opened up their lovely home for a small but delightful Newcomers Coffee/Tea on the 26th of March. Our newer members Tim Rash and Miriam Stone, and Artie and Anna Shaw joined veteran Newcomers Aileen Spurgeon, John and Barbara Ekins, Deb Bodner, Ashley and Glenn Mon, and Duncan and Lee Charlton. The food and drink were fabulous, and it was really nice getting to know our newest members.

ACTIVITIES

MAYMONT MANSION AND GARDENS

1000 Westover Road
Richmond, VA 23220
804-525-9000

Tour of house on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Fee \$15. Please be advised: I was asked to inform you that there are stairs inside the mansion.

History: The Romanesque-style mansion built by James Dooley and his wife Sarah was completed in 1893. They spent the next three decades filling the sumptuous, 12,000 square-foot, 33-room home, with treasures from around the world and establishing magnificent gardens, landscapes and architectural complex. You may tour the gardens outside the mansion on your own anytime starting at 10:00 a.m. or after the tour.

Tour fee is \$15 per-person. The check should be made out to Aileen Spurgeon and received by her no later than May 10, 2023. Send payment to 12 Abby Rd, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473. If payment is not received by that date, only those who have paid will be counted for the tour.

The recent outing to the **Greenbrier Bunker** was very interesting and informative. Who knew in this bucolic setting, under a wing of a fabulous resort, was a bunker/shelter to house Congress! While no pictures were allowed on the tour, before and after the tour offered a couple of great photos, thanks to Joe Little.



Lee & Duncan
Charlton in
front of the
Greenbrier

The lunch
group at Big
Draft Brewing



THE WORLD'S A STAGE



Live theatre is coming to a stage near you! Our two member thespians, David Lusk and Jan Lowry, will each be on stage in mid-April. David is in ShenanArts' production of ***Doublewide, Texas***, another rural comedy from the Jones, Hope, Wooten team, former writers for the Golden Girls. Jan is in Attic Productions' ***Dear Nannie***, a historical drama of local interest. Both plays run April 14-16 & 21-23. Tickets are on sale now at ShenanArts.org and atticprodctions.info respectively

If you're interested in going further afield there is the **Festival of Spring** in Nokesville, VA, about 2 ½ hours from Lexington. This flower festival features over 150 varieties of tulips and 30+ varieties of daffodils. Opening April 4th and running approximately 3 weeks, depending on Mother Nature. Tickets run \$19-\$23. More information and updates about the spring schedule can be found on the website: <https://www.burnsidefarms.com/spring>

Other websites to be considered if looking for an outing but not organized by this club:

Waynesboro Theatre - many different shows and movies: <https://www.waynesborotheatre.org/>

Waynesboro Symphony voted the best community orchestra in the nation in 2021: <https://waynesborosymphonyorchestra.org/>

Masonic Theatre in Clifton Forge offers plays and musical performances: <https://historicmasonictheatre.com/>.

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 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

"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 Lydia Shiver, lshiver1053@gmail.com



PINOCHLE

We aim to play two games of double deck pinochle on the second Wednesday of the month on a rotating schedule at players' houses beginning at 1:30. 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. The pinochle group will play next on April 12. Interested new members, call Marilou Schindler (540) 291-2992.

POKER

The stakes are high for a good time at the Newcomers Poker Group. Currently, the seven active members meet in the evenings on the third Wednesday of each month. There are three on the waiting list who are also active substitutes. Please contact Tom Weaver if you are interested in being a substitute: tomwvr1@gmail.com

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!

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 and fourth Friday of every month for breakfast or lunch. Generally, at Sweet Treats for a late breakfast and at different area restaurants for lunch. Email Pat Thompson at 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! Please note that we will be beginning our second quarter shortly (May-July). An email will be sent in early April asking for volunteer Hosts.

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 is about to complete the 2022-23 season with three events scheduled this spring. Volunteer hosts include Debbie and Alan Mauer, Grace and Joe Simcoe, and Jane and Pat Stange.

New members are being accepted now. All that's required is an appreciation for fine food and interesting conversation, as well as a willingness to host occasionally.

For additional information, contact coordinator Sharon Littlepage at (865) 368-8604 or s.littlepage@comcast.net. Or go to the Newcomers website at www.lexvanewcomers.org/ and scroll down to Fun/Fine Dining.



WINE TASTING

I will be putting a different spin on the wine group in 2023. It will be dedicated to wine lovers looking to learn and to explore, and to those who want to know which wine to buy for that special occasion. The first tasting will take place in April or May with a specific date yet to be chosen. The tastings will be about the wine. Each tasting will have a costar; 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. Let me know if you might be interested in participating in this adventure. Email me, Art Shaw, at artie@snazzybeads.com



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

