

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

**EDITOR:** Deb Bodner – [newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org)

**WEB SITE:** John Ekin - [www.lexvanewcomers.org](http://www.lexvanewcomers.org)

**Vol. 32 Issue 8 – May 2024**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **CLUB OFFICERS**

**President**

David Connolly

**Vice President**

Duncan Charlton

**Treasurer**

John Ekin

**Secretary**

Jacke Rose

Boston

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Activities**

Janet Gibson

**Hospitality**

Aileen Spurgeon

**Membership**

Barbara Ekin

**Name Tags**

Jacke Rose

Boston

**Welcome**

Ashley Mon

**Publicity**

Dear Newcomers,

The Newcomers Club heard a very informative talk on invasive plants by Karen Lyons, at our regular Wednesday morning meeting. She provided a number of useful links for the identification and treatment of these environmental challenges. A good summary is <https://www.invasive.org/midatlantic/fieldguide/> which is a downloadable book. [Karen is part of the Master Gardeners Invasive Species Team. Their website, [www.ramga.org/invasives](http://www.ramga.org/invasives), offers good information and resources.]

We also approved a slate of officers for the 2024-25 year. I am excited that Ramona Bouzard has agreed to assume the Vice President position. John Ekin has agreed to continue as Treasurer, and JackeRose Boston as Corresponding Secretary. This team, under the leadership of Duncan Charlton, as incoming President, will ensure that our club is in good hands. We will vote on this slate in our regular June meeting.

Finally, don't forget our special trip to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley on May 14. Details in the Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Connolly



A suggestion for a new group was made: to be local hosts/guides for W&L foreign students. This might involve taking them to dinner, or an event somewhere in the area, or hosting them over a holiday break. If you are interested in being a part of this contact JackeRose Boston at [jackeRose@goganian.com](mailto:jackeRose@goganian.com)

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**April 2024**  
 Submitted by John Ekin



**THINKING OF YOU**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,055.80</b>
From March 2024	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 87.50</b>
2023-2024 Dues	\$ 87.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 170.00)</b>
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
<b>Balance</b>	
as of March 29, 2024:	<b>\$ 3,973.30</b>
This is reconciled with the latest bank balance.	

Cards were sent to the following members:

Don Brooks for issues with his legs  
 Tim Rash who had hip replacement  
 Irwin McCumber for recent surgery

Please let me know when there is a need for a card to be sent and I will respond.  
 JackeRose Boston, Corresponding Secretary  
[secretary@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our 2023-24 paid memberships are 206.

Please welcome the following new members:

Paula Binsted	Jim Bostic
Nancy Pregnar	John & Patrice Sadler

If you have any changes to your information, please email the membership committee at [membership@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:membership@lexvanewcomers.org).

**HOSPITALITY**



Newcomers Tea and Coffee for our newest members will be Sunday, June 9, at 2-4 p.m. at Sarah O'Hanlon's, 1165 Little Dry Hollow, Lexington, VA 24450. We are asking that any current members (only 3 or 4 needed) willing to bring an appetizer or dessert to please contact Aileen Spurgeon at [spurgchick@gmail.com](mailto:spurgchick@gmail.com). This is a good opportunity to get to know our newest members in a more casual setting.



Join us for Happy Hour on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be May 8 from 5-7 at Devil's Backbone. A lively crowd has been coming, and good times have been had by all. It's a great chance to socialize.



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Did you know that there is a photo gallery on the web page? And it is in need of some current pictures! Please send photos of your activities for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at [webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org)

## ACTIVITIES

To sign up for an activity, or for more information, contact the trip organizer with your name, # of people in your party and your contact info. You will receive trip details, including payment method, carpooling info, restaurant options, etc., leading up to the activity date.

The activities committee: Janet Gibson, Chair; Don Brooke; Charlie Page

### **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley near Winchester, VA - May 14**

The various attractions include the Glenn Bernie House, Formal Gardens, and MSV gallery. The gallery is featuring the exhibit "*The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau*" from the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA. This exhibit will show approximately 120 of the finest Art Nouveau treasures from the Chrysler Museum. Other exhibit of include Floral Portraits by Lynn Mocarski Maurer and American and British Art from the Julian Wood Glass, Jr. collection. And of course there are many exhibits of the early Shenandoah Valley culture. The 90-acre park has "The Trails" which meander through fields, woods, and wetlands with various outdoor art installations. The cost is \$8 (senior) if you buy tickets ahead of the date of our visit at the MSV website, <https://www.themsv.org>. This trip should have something for everyone.

The current plan is to leave Lexington at 8 am. Please contact Don Brooke at [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com) or call at 540-280-4033 if you plan to attend and if you would like to carpool.

### **Jackson River Tubing Adventure near Covington - late July, date TBA**



Tube down the crystal clear waters of the scenic Jackson River near Covington with Allegheny Outdoors Outfitters. Take in the great mountain views and as you relax and let the river move you gently along. This Trek & Tube experience requires you to carry your tube for a 0.3 mile (1500') walk along the Jackson River Bike Trail to launch on private property, and then enjoy a leisurely two-hour float around a 2.25 mile horseshoe bend back to the Adventure shop. Participants must know how to swim and be comfortable in the water. Life vests are provided. Cost is \$22. Check out the website at <https://alleghenyoutdoors.com/activities/trek-and-tube/>.

Sign up by contacting organizer Janet Gibson at [janethgibson@gmail.com](mailto:janethgibson@gmail.com)

## Luray Caverns Tour & More near Luray - October date TBA

Take a self-guided tour of the beautiful caverns (approximately one hour) along well-lighted, paved walkways that lead you through cathedral-sized rooms with towering stone formations, and natural wonders at every turn. Fee of \$24 includes the Caverns tour, Car & Carriage Caravan Museum and the Shenandoah Heritage Village. Check out the website at <https://luraycaverns.com/explore/> Sign up by contacting organizer Charlie Page at [chasdpage@gmail.com](mailto:chasdpage@gmail.com)

The **Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners Association** will be holding its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11 from 8:30 to noon. It will be at the Ruritan Barn, 1260 Valley Pike, Lexington. Several Newcomers are members and can share information about this group.

## 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](mailto:vatxrok@me.com).

Come roll with the Bunco ladies! If you are vaccinated, the Wednesday Bunco group will be playing in person on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. We are 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. 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 is meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30. We play double-deck Pinochle and have "cheat sheets" available to with rules and melds to help those who may have played by different melds or rules. Generally we play two games between 1:30 and 4:30. Hosts rotate and provide a dessert and beverage midway between the games. . Our next play date will be May 8 at the Schindlers' home.

If you are interested, please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at [marilous@aol.com](mailto:marilous@aol.com).

## **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. Please contact Tom Weaver if you are interested in being a substitute: [tomwvr1@gmail.com](mailto:tomwvr1@gmail.com)

## **BOARD SILLY**

The "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](mailto: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](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! The next quarter for Dining Out will be May-July, 2024.

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

Remember when people used to host dinner parties in their homes? When people enjoyed cooking and sharing a meal and cocktails with neighbors, family, and friends? Although COVID-19 messed with socializing for a while, it's still a "thing" in Newcomers Club.

Spring/Summer Fine Dining gatherings for this season will take place May through July. There's still time to sign up, so contact Sharon Littlepage, coordinator, at (865) 368-8604 or [s.littlepage@comcast.net](mailto:s.littlepage@comcast.net) for more information.



## WINE TASTING

There is still time to sign up before we start the first tasting, so hurry up and sign up now at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org). Groups will be composed of eight tasters. Any signee that makes multiples of less than eight (24, 32, 40) will be placed on a waiting list until the limit is met per additional group. Tasting will begin in May.

The plan: I will choose a **type of** wine for the groups to taste and will inform all those signed up within groups. Hosts will be requested at that time (1 or 2 host /s for each group of 8 tasters). I will **assign** the tasters in groups of 8, including the host/s.

**Each individual participant or couple** in the group will provide their **favorite bottle of that wine choice** (priced from \$8 to \$24 per bottle) **in a brown paper bag**. Each participant or couple should also bring a **food item** for a charcuterie board; ie., cheese, cold meat, fruit, chocolate, crackers or toasted bread. The host may assign a food for the tasters to bring, or ask that the tasters let them know what they are bringing so there will be a variety of foods. Each taster will need to bring **six glasses for wine tasting**

The host will provide an additional bottle of the wine to be tasted if needed, for a total of six wines to taste. groups contain three couples and two individuals. The host will be responsible for contacting tasters to schedule a date for their wine tasting, providing tasting sheets, wine glass identifiers, a charcuterie board or platter for the food items and individual small plates for serving, and a black magic marker for marking the wine bottle bags one through six. The cost of the wine is shared among the tasters. Let your host know on or before the tasting date the cost of the wine. The host will tally the cost of the wine and divide by six to arrive at the cost per taster. The host will also record tasters' remarks for the wine tasting, and report to me at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org).

Naturally, with anything new, there may be some kinks, but they will be worked out before the following summer wine tasting.

## 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. The Group has begun offering hikes on a Saturday so if you haven't signed up yet because of the Friday only hikes consider sending me your name and email address to add to the hiking emails so that you will see which Saturday a hike is offered. Send to [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com)