

# 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. 33 Issue 3 – November 2024**

## CLUB OFFICERS

### President

Duncan Charlton

### Vice President

Ramona Bouzard

### 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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Thank you to Ginger Bomar, our November speaker, who told us of Community Table. We have several club members who volunteer there and it's a way to really make a difference for a surprising number of families in our community who struggle to make ends meet.

Our annual holiday party is December 4th at 3pm at the Virginia Horse Center, in the mezzanine of the Anderson Coliseum (the large building to your right as you enter from Highway 39). Check out the article below for more details. Please note that we are asking our members to pay by November 15th so we know how much food to order.

We have a healthy number of members and a reminder to all that if you have not yet paid, your 2024-25 dues (\$25 per person) are due. Please send them in as soon as possible to our treasurer, John Ekin.

See you at the party!  
Duncan Charlton



**Holiday party!!**



**WHEN:** Wednesday, December 4, 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Virginia Horse Center, Mezzanine Level (There will be greeters to direct you!)

**COST:** \$15.00 per member, \$25.00 per guest.

Please reserve a spot with your check/payment by November 15.

- Check/payment should be sent to **John Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473.**
- **When you send in your check, please let John know if you prefer the gluten free and vegan options.**
- If you miss the November 15th deadline, email John and let him know you are attending and put the check/payment in the mail to him asap.

**BRING WITH YOU:** Your holiday spirit!

AND, If you wish to do so, bring a dessert to add to the Open Dessert Table

OR

For those with a competitive spirit, a dessert for the Judged Dessert Table.

If you plan to bring a dessert for the Judged Dessert Table, drop Jane Strange a note

at [jstange5440@gmail.com](mailto:jstange5440@gmail.com), so the set-up committee can provide enough space for judged desserts.

**PROVIDED** for your pleasure will be: Heavy hors d’oeuvres, many which are gluten free and vegan, 2 drink tickets (if you don’t use them, you can give them away to others, or just not use them). If unused, we will not be charged. There will be fun activities, door prizes, photo station!

**MANY THANKS** to our Holiday Party planning team. They have done a marvelous job!

Questions? Please direct questions through the GLNC website where they will go automatically to V.P., Ramona Bouzard.

### TREASURERS REPORT

October 2024

Submitted by John Ekin

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,669.04</b>
From October report 2024	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>
Dues for 2024-25	625.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 482.31)</b>
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Kenny’s chicken	(\$ 205.02)
Jersy Mike’s subs	(\$ 107.29)
<b>Balance</b>	
as of October 31, 2024:	<b>\$ 6,811.73</b>
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	

<b>2024 Annual Picnic Report</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 387.00</b>
Income from ticket sales	387.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>(\$ 482.31)</b>
Pavilion rental	(\$ 150.00)
Kenny’s chicken	(\$ 205.02)
Jersy Mike’s subs	(\$ 107.29)
Barbara Ekin – decorations	(\$ 58.11)
<b>Total Picnic Cost</b>	<b>(\$ 133.42)</b>



### THINKING OF YOU

If you know of anyone who is ailing, or has had surgery, or in need of a good thought please let me know and I will respond. JackeRose Boston, Corresponding Secretary [secretary@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 237 members on the roster. Reminder: Dues for the 2024-25 year are due now. Dues are \$25/person. They should be sent to Barbara Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473.

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

Please welcome new members Carol & Richard Phillips.



## HOSPITALITY

Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be November 13th 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

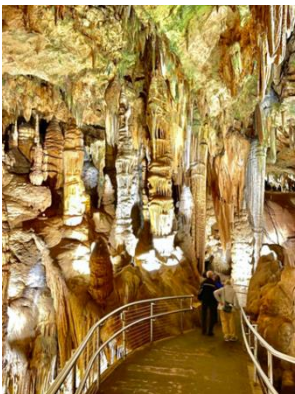
Did you know that there is a photo gallery on the web page? And it is in need of some current pictures! Please send photos of your activities for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at [webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org) JackeRose Boston is collecting photos for a flyer/brochure to be handed out at events such as the Community Festival. Photos can also be sent to Deb Bodner for the newsletter and Jo Ritterbusch for the FaceBook page.

## 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

**Luray Caverns** - Wednesday, October 16.



Don Brooks, Deb Bodner and Janet Gibson can be seen taking in the beauty of the Caverns. Also attending, Charlie & Peggy Page.

**Activities to do on your own:**

This Activity is recommended, but not offered as an organized group activity. To recommend future time-sensitive activities to be listed here, please contact Janet Gibson.

For a great **theatre experience**, ShenanArts in Staunton, will be performing “The Homecoming: A Christmas Story” the weekends of December 6-8 and 13-15. This play is a sequel to the novel Spencer’s Mountain by Earl Hamner. Hamner grew up in Schyler, VA, just over the mountains in Nelson County. He used both the location and his family for the backdrop of his stories. Tickets are on sale now at [www.ShenanArts.org](http://www.ShenanArts.org).

**Christmas at the Jacksons    Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**



Visitors will step back in time and experience an 1858 Christmas while interacting with costumed interpreters. Those who attend will also have an opportunity to be a part of the “preparations” by singing Christmas Carols, churning butter in the kitchen, and helping our 1858 visitors pick the proper outfit for dinner. Last tour will be at 6:40 p.m.

Admission for the event is canned food for humans and/or pets to benefits the Rockbridge Area Relief Association Food Pantry.

Help us give back to our local community and come out for an evening of candlelit magic.

For further information on Christmas at the Jacksons’ and the Jackson House Museum, please call (540) 464-7704.

**INTEREST GROUPS**

*To join an interest group, call or email the contact person. Note: the following new group, a Men’s Book group.*



**MEN’S BOOK GROUP**

Greetings! At the November Meeting I announced my desire to start a Men's Book Group from the GLNC membership. Six men present expressed an interest in the idea, so we are a go! Although the content and structure of this group will be decided by consensus, the group that I was last involved in met bimonthly on Sunday afternoons, read and discussed both fiction and nonfiction, and the facilitator role rotated among interested members. WARNING: I will facilitate at least the first meeting, but I have zero literary background, so please adjust your expectations accordingly! I do expect that the group will be a great opportunity to share insights and experiences and just hang out. If there are questions or interested members my phone number is 805-403-0138 and my email is [scottloorz@yahoo.com](mailto:scottloorz@yahoo.com). Thanks!



## MYSTERY DINNER

The Mystery Dinner has had a setback. If there are any would-be Sherlock Holmes' out there who would like to take this on, George Grasse will share the mysteries and help get you started. You can contact George at [georgehgrasse@gmail.com](mailto:georgehgrasse@gmail.com)



## 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

The Canasta group is currently taking a pause.



## PINOCHLE

The Pinochle group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30. We play double-deck Pinochle and have "cheat sheets" available with rules and melds to help those who may have played by different rules or melds. 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 November 13 at the home of Ashley Mon. Please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at [marilous@aol.com](mailto:marilous@aol.com).

## POKER

The Newcomers Poker Group currently has seven active members who 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! We are currently in our 3rd Quarter of dining out. The next opportunity to participate is in the 1st Quarter of 2025 (January, February, and March). I will start planning for that quarter in December.

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 out at House Mountain Inn October 28. Attending are Tom & Karen Reeves, Janet & Glenn Gibson (hosts), Deb Bodner, David Wade, Joe Little, and Lee Charlton. Not pictured Duncan Charlton

## 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? It's still a "thing" among Newcomers' members.

Dining In is searching for a new coordinator. For the details on running the group, contact Sharon Littlepage, [s.littlepage@concast.net](mailto:s.littlepage@concast.net)



## WINE TASTING

Wine tastings will be held four times a year: summer, fall, winter, and spring. The chair selects the type of wine to be tasted. 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**. The host will provide an additional bottle of the wine if needed, for a total of six wines to taste. The cost of the wine is shared among the tasters. Ratings from each hosting are shared with the wine chair, who compiles the scores and distributes the results to members via email.

Each tasting is hosted by a member in their home with six to eight tasters at each location. The host will be responsible for contacting tasters to schedule a date, and providing a charcuterie board or other hors d'oeuvres. (The request for food may be shared among the tasters.)

If you would like to participate in wine tasting for the Jan-Mar quarter please let me know, Marilou Schindler, at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org). We will be tasting Pinot Noir.



## HIKING GROUP

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. Each week Don, Debbie or a designated person will announce 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 Don or Debbie your name and email address to add to the hiking emails so that you will see which Saturday a hike is offered. Send it to [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com) or Debbie Maurer at [2mtprs@gmail.com](mailto:2mtprs@gmail.com)

NOTE: There is NO December newsletter

