

# 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 5 – February 2025**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

We have a few days to go out and enjoy the good weather before winter closes back in.

The 39 members (and one guest) present loved hearing club member Bob Biersack (board president of Rockbridge Conservation) tell us what that organization does for the local environment — watershed and riparian area protection, PFAS research, trail maintenance, waste reduction at large community events, roadside cleanup and offering information about subsidized well/septic repairs and solar installation. We heard some good questions (and good answers) afterward and Patrice Sadler mentioned that she has information about how to get Federal tax deductions for conservation easements.

Lee Charlton will be offering a beginner needle felting class at Janet Gibson's house for up to 8 people from 1-4pm March 6. Cost is \$45. Contact her or Janet soon if you want to attend.

Charlie Page announced that the Activities team is planning a visit to the D-Day memorial in Bedford and the nearby Thomas Jefferson home at Poplar Forest in April. Tickets will be \$25. In May there will be another group outing to see Edgcroft Gardens and Maymont Mansion & Gardens in Richmond.

Wednesday afternoon Bunko group needs new members! Please sign up with Aileen Spurgeon.

Sarah O'Hanlon complimented the Board Silly group (board games, in case you didn't quite make the connection) for offering her a great time and she encourages others to try it out.

She also mentioned planning a class in making cold-process soap from goat's milk, to be held at her farm in the Collierstown area.

Scott Looz said the first meeting of the men's book club went well and he extends an invitation to others to join in.

Wednesday February 12th at 5pm is the monthly happy hour at Devil's Backbone, 50 Northwind Lane, off Route 11 north of Lexington.

## **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**

Barbara Ekin

### **Welcome**

Ashley Mon

### **Publicity**

We would like to add more entries to the “Member Recommendations” web page. Here can be found names and contact info for services to help keep your home in good shape: arborists, carpet cleaners, electricians, exterminators, fencing, flooring, glass, carpentry, excavation and driveway repair, gutter cleaning, HVAC repair, insulation, masonry, plaster and plumbing contractors, etc. but also who you can call for various other services such as auto glass repair, where to get your car inspected, etc. The list is far from complete! If you’re happy with your auto body repair, limo service, house painters, driveway plowing or mowing service, please let John Ekin or me know so we can add them to the list. We all want to know who to turn to for fast, reliable service but need to know who you are happy to recommend.

As I made this request to those assembled at the meeting, several people nodded their heads and said, “...and pet sitters!” In the audience happened to be Judy Williams, who told me she was there because she was not dog-sitting for a change.

Duncan Charlton

Looking ahead to our future meetings, our speakers will be as follows:

March 5: Margaret Ann Paxton, Rockbridge County Community Emergency Response Team

April 2: **5:30 pm evening meeting**, Dwayne Yancy, Cardinal News (Rockbridge County demographics)

May 7: Patti Cook, Rockbridge Area Health Center

June 4: TBA

\*\* Note the April meeting is in the evening.

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**January 2025**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,862.47</b>
From Nov/Dec 2024 report	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 375.00</b>
Dues for 2024-25	\$ 325.00
Dues for 2025-26	\$ 50.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 170.00)</b>
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,067.47</b>
as of January 31, 2025:	
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	



**THINKING OF YOU**

When life throws a curve ball, whether it’s an ailment, surgery or something else, it’s nice to know your fellow Newcomers are thinking of you. If you know of someone who could use some cheering up or just a good thought, let Nimfa Szarka, our Corresponding Secretary, know and she will send a card on behalf of the Newcomers. The email is [secretary@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 246 members on the roster. 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 member Alyce Navesky, and returning member Vera Winkler.



## HOSPITALITY

Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be February 12th 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) Photos can also be sent to Deb Bodner for the newsletter and Jo Ritterbusch for the FaceBook page. Please take some photos at your next get together and send them to any of us.

## ACTIVITIES

To sign up for an activity, or for more information, contact the event 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

### **Goddess Fairy Needle-Felting Workshop**

Thursday, March 6, 1:00-4:00 pm in Lexington

Join Lee Charlton as she takes you through the process of making your very own Mother Nature Goddess from wool and other found objects. This **three-hour, beginner class** costs just \$45 and includes all materials and tools needed and snacks. Bring your creativity and take home your very own unique Mother Nature Goddess! Lee will guide you first in making the goddess form, then on to decorating and adding hair and your very own flair.



Sign up today!! Maximum class size is 8 participants. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. When class is full, names will be added to a wait-list for a second offering of this class.

For more information and to register, contact [Janet Gibson](#)

### **Visit the National D-Day Memorial *and* Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest** April Date TBA, Bedford and Forest, Virginia

Tour the D-Day Memorial in the morning, enjoy lunch at nearby Olde Liberty Station, then drive 30 minutes for an afternoon visit to Poplar Forest. The cost for a combo ticket to visit both sites is just \$25.

[The National D-Day Memorial](#) honors the bravery and sacrifice of Allied forces during the June 6, 1944, Normandy invasion. Bedford holds a unique place in history as the town that sustained the highest per capita D-Day losses in the United States, making it a fitting home for this solemn tribute. The memorial features an English garden, an invasion tableau, and the prominent Overlord Arch, symbolically recreating the D-Day journey from planning to battle to victory. This site includes evocative sculptures, plaques, and a reflective pool, all designed to deepen understanding of the D-Day operation.

<https://www.dday.org/>



[Poplar Forest](#) is an award-winning historic restoration in progress, nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Go inside Thomas Jefferson's private retreat, the home of his most personal architectural creations and the site of his individual pursuit of happiness. Learn about the Jefferson family, the free and enslaved craftsmen who built the historic masterpiece, and the enslaved people who lived and labored on the plantation.

<https://www.poplarforest.org/visit/>

For more information and to register, contact [Charlie Page](#)

Coming in May when flowers are in peak boom! Watch for details from Don Brooke in the March newsletter. Visit [Agecroft Hall and Gardens](https://www.agecrofthall.org/) and [Maymont Park](https://maymont.org/visit/) in Richmond

Sarah O'Hanlon will offer a workshop on cold-process soap making from goat's milk, probably in March. Watch the March newsletter for more information.

## 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

The Men's Book Group successfully held their first meeting recently! It is hoped that the group will be a great opportunity to share insights and experiences and just hang out. If there are questions or interested members please contact Scott Loorz: his phone number is 805-403-0138 and email is [scottloorz@yahoo.com](mailto:scottloorz@yahoo.com).



### 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 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 are looking for more regular players and 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 February 12 at the Schlinger's. 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. Join us at 10 on Friday, February 14 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! The venues for our 1st Quarter (January-March) of dining out filled quickly. Information about the next quarter will be in a later newsletter. 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? 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

The winetasting group is open for winter tastings of Zinfandel (red) during the months of January and February. If you are interested in hosting a group of eight during this time period, please let me know; let me know the date you will host, and whether it is an afternoon or evening time period. I am seeking another host for winter wine tasting of Zinfandel between now and March 4.

Each couple or single taster will bring a bottle of Zinfandel of their choice (cost between \$8 and \$24 per bottle). Each taster/couple should also bring an item for a charcuterie board (meat or seafood item, cheese, crackers, raw vegetable or raw fruit, or chocolate, as per host). If you are interested in participating in winter tastings of zinfandel, please email Marilou Schlinder, at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org) with your email address and name.



### 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)

