

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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CLUB OFFICERS

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Duncan Charlton

Vice President

Ramona Bouzard

Treasurer

John Ekin

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Jacke Rose
Boston

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Activities

Janet Gibson

Hospitality

Aileen Spurgeon

Membership

Barbara Ekin

Name Tags

Barbara Ekin

Welcome

Ashley Mon

Publicity

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Are you ready for spring weather yet? Most of us made it indoors before the truly heavy rains hit during the meeting on Wednesday!

Debbie Funkhouser from the Rockbridge Area Community Emergency Response Team spoke to 42 meeting attendees about how they can not only help prepare themselves for disasters but also to be of service to those around you during emergencies. They offer inexpensive training classes. You can find out more by emailing them at cert@rockbridgecountyva.gov. Their offices are near the 911 center in Buena Vista.

Announcements — we had lots of announcements: JackeRose Boston reminded us about upcoming street closures and explained the Ducks in a Row program for getting our affairs in order as we age and left a flyer regarding class schedules on the table full of sign-up sheets. Sharon Culberson announced the new Dining Club, Chip Bouzard will begin leading the Dining Out group (if you want to get on the list, send an email to ginc.diningout@gmail.com), Lee Charlton announced her needle felting class scheduled for the following day (sounds like it was a big success), Charlie Page announced a trip to Jefferson's Poplar Forest home and the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on April 22nd and Mary Ellen Folsom asked people to contact her if anyone was interested in starting up a kickball group.

Former club president Larry Spurgeon and leader of multiple interest groups Aileen Spurgeon are moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to family. We are sad to see them go.

Don't forget that next month's meeting (April 2nd) will be an evening meeting — same location but we'll gather at 5:30pm.

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

Duncan Charlton

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

April 2: **5:30 pm evening meeting**, at the Country Club, 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
February 2025
Submitted by John Ekin



THINKING OF YOU

Prior Balance	\$ 5,067.47
From January 2025 report	
Total Income	\$ 200.00
Dues for 2024-25	\$ 125.00
Dues for 2025-26	\$ 75.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(\$ 184.60)
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
postage stamps	(\$ 14.60)
Balance	\$ 5,082.87
as of February 28, 2025:	
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	

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

Cards were sent to Glenn Mons and Dennis Culberson

MEMBERSHIP

We have 220 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.



HOSPITALITY

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

A fun and creative time was had by Annette Green, Janet Harte, Vera Winkler, Gini Jardim, Judy Williams Deb Bodner and hostess Janet Gibson as Lee Charlton took us through the process of making felted Mother Nature Goddesses.



Visit the National D-Day Memorial *and* Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

April 22, Bedford and Forest, Virginia

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

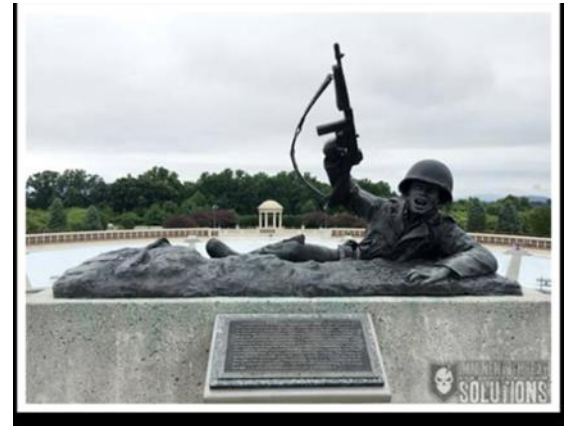


[Poplar Forest](https://www.poplarforest.org/visit/) is an award-winning historic restoration in progress, nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Go inside Thomas Jefferson's private retreat, the home of his most personal architectural creations and the site of his individual pursuit of happiness. 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/>

[The National D-Day Memorial](https://www.dday.org/) 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/>

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



Coming in June when flowers are in peak bloom! A visit to [Agecroft Hall and Gardens](#) and [Maymont Park](#) in Richmond. Watch for details from Don Brooke in an upcoming newsletter. More about the different venues can be found on their websites:

<https://www.agecrofthall.org/> <https://maymont.org/visit/>

Activities to do on your own:

The sap is running at the Maple Syrup Festival of Highland County for the next two weekends, March 8-9 & 15-16. Many venues throughout the county offer tours as well as food and sweet treats. A stop in Monterey VA, the headquarters for this event, includes live entertainment and a large arts and craft fair. For more information go to their website: <https://www.highlandcounty.org/maple-festival/>

The Virginia American Revolution Commission debuted a mobile museum in January that will be touring the state over the next three years. It is scheduled to be at the Frontier Museum in Staunton April 15-17. For more information about the whole project visit to their website <https://va250.org/>

For the theatre enthusiasts, ShenanArts in Staunton is premiering *Hattie Big Sky*. Based on the young adult novel of the same name, it is the story of Hattie Brooks who inherits her uncle's homestead tract in Montana in 1918. She has only a short time to make it viable or lose it. The play runs March 28-30 & April 4 – 6. For ticket information go to www.ShenanArts.org.

INTEREST GROUPS

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

Possible new group: a Supper Club

Are you interested in joining a group for a Supper Club.

I'd like to find 6-8 diners interested in forming a casual group that would like to get together on a regular basis to fix food and enjoy each other's company.

Call or email me. Sharon Culberson at 401-523-7353 or hilltopgardens3@gmail.com

I'd like to hear from people by April 16.



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.



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.

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 Jo Ritterbusch at blueridgecorgis@gmail.com or call or text, 845-661 9075 .



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. Please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at 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

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 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 brunch or lunch. Generally, at Sweet Treats for a late breakfast and at different area restaurants for lunch. Email Margery Harrill at margeryharrill@gmail.com for more information.



DINING OUT

Note: there is a new dedicated email address for Dining out: glnc.diningout@gmail.com After several years, Aileen Spurgeon is stepping down and Chip Bouzard is taking over.

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 7 to 9, including the hosts. Group members then sign up to join their hosts for a meal out! We are heading into the 2nd quarter, April- June; I'm looking for five or six volunteers to “host”, i.e. make reservations at an area restaurant. Please send me

the specifics: restaurant, date & time and how many guest. 7 or 9 will allow some of our single members to join as well.

For more information contact Chip Bouzard at glnc.diningout@gmail.com



WINE TASTING

The winetasting group is open for winter tastings of Zinfandel (red). If you are interested in hosting a group of eight in the future, please let me know, including the date you will host, and whether it is an afternoon or evening time period.

Each couple or single taster will bring a bottle of the selected wine 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, please email Marilou Schlinder, at 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 or Debbie Maurer at 2mtprs@gmail.com



Hike to John's Hollow Shelter on the AT
March 7, 2025

