

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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**Vol. 24 Issue 3 – November 2015**

## *MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Dear Newcomers,

Seventy degrees in the beginning of November, I'll take it. Thank you to all 30 members who came this morning to our monthly meeting. It is always nice to catch up with what everyone is up to. This fall has been busy for the club. Lots going on, Oktoberfest, hiking, cards, trips, and wine tasting ... Fitting activities into our busy lives can be a challenge, but you can make Newcomers fit your schedule. That is one of the great things about our organization.

I have been talking with several members on the topic of an occasional overnight trip. I am bringing this up to see if there might be interest in putting something together. Also bus trips have been organized. Please share your thoughts about the possibility and any ideas with Officers, Activity organizers, and fellow members.

Our Holiday Party is coming up. It is our biggest event of the year. See information from Ray Leinbach later in this Newsletter. We are looking forward to a festive event with great food and conversation. Hope all of you can make it.

Our By Law committee is meeting this month to update the bylaws. The update will be published in the Newsletter. The following month they will be voted on at the monthly meeting.

We are still looking for a chair or co-chairs for the Wine Tasting group. If you have enjoyed the experience in the past please consider helping out so it can go on. Contact Jim Slack or me. Thank you for giving this some thought and helping out.

Back to this great weather. I guess I can't put off raking the leaves that just seemed to drop overnight. Great exercise!

We will not have a meeting in December. January 6, 2016 will be our next meeting.

Hope to see all of you at the Holiday Party!

Jane Stange, President

### **CLUB OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Jane Stange

#### **Vice President**

Mike Lowry

#### **Treasurer**

Nancy Wright

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Margaret Skovira

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Activities**

Shelly Undercoffer

#### **Hospitality**

Phil Crudden

#### **Membership**

Bill Docekal

#### **Name Tags**

Marilou Schindler

#### **Publicity**

Sally Nunneley

#### **Welcome**

Kim Crudden

## Membership Report



If you did not pay your annual dues, you will not be listed in the directory. If your situation changes, please contact me.

### Directory instructions:

1. Call up our Homepage, [www.lexvanewcomers.org](http://www.lexvanewcomers.org), click on Membership.
2. Click on “Click here to lookup a member” or “Print out a current Directory”
3. Our username is: **lexcomer** Our password is: **member5**
4. To print the directory, set your “Properties” to “Duplex Printing” so to have front and back printing. Choose the % you wish to see – I use 80% to print more on each page.

There were no new members for this month. As for now, our membership stands at 110 and members at 188.

Bill Docekal – Membership chair.

### ACTIVITIES

*OKTOBERFEST 2015* was a great success! Thank you to all my helpers!! A special Thanks to Bill Docekal for making the backup beer run!! Food was good, company was great!

Richmond Trip was a lot of fun! Food at the Tobacco Company was excellent! Poe museum was interesting and the guide was great! I have since decided to go back and read more of his works with a little more insight into who he was. I was never a fan of forced high school readings so I missed out on many of his works. A brief trip to the Tap for a drink and appetizers, (too many Beer options, a good thing), while waiting for the cruise. The Canal Cruise was interesting and something I never realized about Richmond. All and all a great trip! Thank you Sharon Littlely for organizing!

I apologize for missing the November Meeting, but I understand some of you expressed an interest in an overnight group trip? So here is what I propose, if some people would be willing to be on a committee to discuss the possibilities we could move forward on this! Call or email me to sign up for the committee and I will get a meeting together. Shelley Undercoffer 540-461-0623 [sunder4@juno.com](mailto:sunder4@juno.com)

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER



#### New Members Coffee

The last New Members Coffee for 2015 will take place on Sunday, November 8th from 2-4 pm at the home of Bill and Pat Anthony, 506 Jackson Avenue, Lexington.

We encourage all new 2015 members, as well as recent members who missed the New Members Coffee in April 2015 to attend. This is a great

opportunity to network with other new members and a few Newcomers Club veterans in a relaxed setting. We will have information on hand to help new members become more familiar with the local area and amenities. If you wish to attend or have questions, please send an email to Phil Crudden ( [pcrudden@gmail.com](mailto:pcrudden@gmail.com) ).

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival Poplar Forest**

Saturday, November 21 11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
1542 Bateman Bridge Road  
Forest, VA 24551

<http://www.poplarforest.org>

(Approx 1 hour drive from Old K-Mart Parking Lot)

Admission: \$30.00 or \$10:00 for non-tasters

A visit to Poplar Forest will deepen your understanding of Thomas Jefferson. It is at this getaway that he focused on his *personal* pursuit of happiness—and created a distinctly personal place. Thomas Jefferson called wine “...a necessary of life with me.” This November, like-minded wine enthusiasts will gather at his secluded plantation to toast the “Father of Virginia Wine” in the seventh annual Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival. This year’s festival will feature 15 Virginia wineries, along with artisans, local food purveyors and musical entertainment. “Mr. Jefferson,” as portrayed by Bill Barker, will also make a guest appearance!

The Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival is held inside large, heated tents, rain or shine. Tasting tickets include a complimentary wine glass. Because this is an adult event, there are no children’s activities available. We ask that attendees refrain from bringing outside food or drink. With the exception of service dogs, pets are prohibited.

Contact Sharon Littley, 703-625-0870 or [slittley@gmu.edu](mailto:slittley@gmu.edu), if you would like to attend.

## **DECEMBER**



### **Lexington Newcomers’ 2015 Holiday Party**

The Greater Lexington Newcomers’ Club will host its annual Holiday Party on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

This is one of our main social events of the season. Come and mingle with old friends and make some new. As in the past we will have delicious food, drinks, and wonderful music. Please note this is not a dinner, but heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served.

This year the cost of the ticket will be \$15 per person. Reservation and payment can be made between November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please make checks out to: **Greater Lexington Newcomers Club** and mail your check and reservations to:

Jim Slack  
305 Cameron Drive  
Lexington, VA 24450

We look forward to having you join us for this festive occasion.

Ray Leinbach, Event Coordinator

### **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**

Tuesday, December 8  
Dinner in the Tea House – 5:00 pm  
2015 Dominion GardenFest of Lights:  
“H2Qwhoa” – Self Guided Tour  
1800 Lakeside Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23228  
<http://www.lewisginter.org>

(Approx 1 hour 50 min drive from Old K-Mart Parking Lot)

Admission: \$11.00 – Seniors Free Parking

Dinner: If we have a group of 15 or more - \$32.00 for a semi-private dining holiday buffet, otherwise see website and menu for costs in Tea House.

A holiday tradition featuring more than half-a-million twinkling lights, hand-crafted botanical decorations, model trains, holiday dinners, fire pit with s'mores and hot chocolate. Experience a dazzling 30-acre light and botanical display highlighting some of the many ways water surrounds us and shapes the world in which we live. Explore magical, whimsical re-imaginings of everyday water events. Stroll through twinkling "rain storms" as crystal rain drops and fluffy storm clouds float overhead. Participate in a thunderstorm of lights! As the storm clears walk through a 75-foot rainbow of light to the warm yellow Rose Garden where our peacock dries its feathers. Dive into deep blue pools surrounded by glowing ocean life. Make your way down the Rainbow Road beside a river of light. Indoors you can follow fish in a river to learn more about water and how to help improve our own waterways. Experience gorgeous botanical exhibits inspired by bog gardens and ocean life and enjoy multiple train displays. Step into the Conservatory to explore the ocean's floor, discover a wintry wonderland, find rainstorms and rainbows, and visit a tropical rainforest.

Contact Sharon Littley, 703-625-0870 or slittley@gmu.edu, if you would like to attend.

### **Monthly Teas - Back Home on the Farm**

2915 Willow Run Road

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Website: <http://backhome-onthefarm.com>

(Approx 1 hour drive from Old K-Mart Parking Lot)

*All TEAS start at 1:00 pm and are \$20.00 per person*

Contact Sharon Littley, 703-625-0870, slittley@gmu.edu, if you would like to attend.

### 1) **Thursday, November 12**

"Today I Am Thankful For..."

Celebrate the favorite things of your life. Delight in some of their favorite teas, soul warming soup, delightful tea sandwiches along with an assortment of wondrous sweets. Catch your breath and relax with your favorite persons before the holiday rush begins!

### 2) **Thursday, December 10**

"A Cup of Christmas Cheer"

Join Back Home on the Farm for their annual Christmas Tea of savories and sweets all prepared to remind you of your favorite things! Get away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations!

Contact Sharon Littley, 703-625-0870 or slittley@gmu.edu, if you would like to attend.

### **Upcoming Trips Next Year**

Tour of Maymont, Virginia Historical Society Museum, Virginia Holocaust Museum, John Marshall Museum, Agecroft Hall, Roanoke Sunday Brunch Food & History Tour, Roanoke Historic Downtown Food & Cultural Tour. We are open to suggestions. Please contact Shelley Undercoffer, sunder4@juno.com, Events Chair.

### **ON GOING ACTIVITY**

#### **Washington and Lee Football Fun**



Join the Newcomers as they cheer on the Washington and Lee Generals football team at the Lexington home games this year. Come enjoy the fun and excitement of college football right here at home and the best part is it cost you nothing to attend the games!

Look for Newcomers about half way up the stadium on about the 40 yard line seats section. The final game is on November 7 at 1 PM against Catholic.

Come and cheer on the Generals! See you at the game!

**Treasurers Report  
10/01/15 – 10/31/15**

**Submitted by Nancy Wright**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 5,178.27
INCOME	
Dues	\$ 735.00
Oktoberfest	\$ 900.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,813.27



**DISBURSEMENTS**

Door prizes	\$ 89.05
New member coffee	\$ 17.14
Room Rent	\$ 60.00
Oktoberfest (part)	\$125.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 291.19
BALANCE 9/30/15	\$ 6,522.08

**Dues must be current to participate in  
Newcomer events.**



**FROM THE HISTORIAN**

Don't forget to send your activity photos to Gary Sullivan for the on-line photo album.  
[garysullivan@rockbridge.net](mailto:garysullivan@rockbridge.net)



**THINKING OF YOU**

Has a member had an operation, a new grandchild? Is a significant anniversary coming up, or has someone lost a loved one? Please send me an email with the member's name, and address if you know it, and I will send congratulations or condolences as appropriate from Newcomers.

Address to: [mskovira3@gmail.com](mailto:mskovira3@gmail.com) or call 464-1555. Thank you!

In October cards were sent to Marilou and Fritz Schlinder, congratulations on birth of great-grandchild; Tom Coker and David Hopkins, happy birthday; Jim & Nancy Vallance, farewell; Jane Stange, condolences on death of father, Jan and Mike White condolences on death of grandchild.

Margaret Skovira, Corresponding Secretary



## INTEREST GROUPS

*Interest group participants must be members of Newcomers. To join an interest group, call or email the contact person.*



### Dining In/Fine Dining Group

Fine Dining has kicked off our Fall Round (October/November) with a wonderful group of 33 members! Serving as hosts for this session are Dorothy and Tom Coker, Marylou and Fred Schindler, Grace and Joe Simcoe and Sharon and Jack Littlely.

Our Winter session will be coming up after the holidays during the months of January/February/March. New members are always welcome to join in the fun!

Members attend three dinners per year and members are required to host once every 4 sessions (depending on the total number of members). The Fine Dining coordinator assigns groups so that you will eat with different members at each dinner. Hosts plan the menu, coordinate selecting the date among their guests and assign recipes to their guests. Costs for meals are split evenly among all attending each dinner so that hosting isn't a costly burden.

Contact Grace Simcoe at [gsimcoe@gmail.com](mailto:gsimcoe@gmail.com) if you're interested in knowing more about Fine Dining.

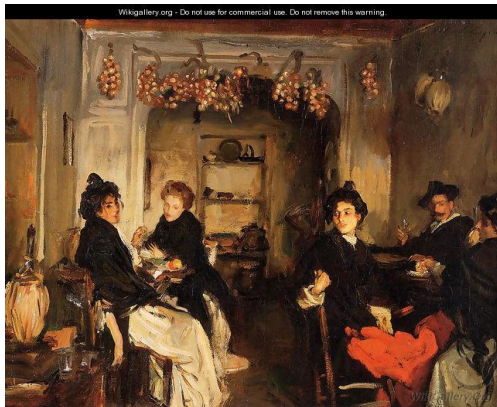


### Dining Out

The group consists of members who are interested in experiencing various dining out venues within a reasonable drive of the Lexington area. Venues have included restaurants within a 60 to 90 minutes drive. Though 90 minutes is pushing the limit a little, sometimes there is a place to dine that is too enticing to pass up. We dine out three times a year in September through November, January through March, and April through June. Members are expected to volunteer to host a dining out venue at least once a year. Each of three quarters, members will be requested to sign up as host then provide me with the name, address, and phone number of the restaurant of choice and web page, if available. Hosts indicate how many members can attend, provide a date and time, make sure that individual bills are acceptable to the restaurant as each member pays individually, confirm the booking about a week prior to the event and remind participants by email or phone.

Once a list of venues is established, members will be sent a choice of dates/restaurants by email and are asked to provide three choices in order of preference. Remember that venues fill up quickly and assignments are made on a first come basis. If you are not assigned to your first choice, I will try to accommodate an alternative choice.

If you are new to Newcomers, please contact Dorothy Coker at [540-348-6248](tel:540-348-6248) or [cedarbranchhollow@gmail.com](mailto:cedarbranchhollow@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list.



## Wine Tasting Notice

The Wine Tasting Group meets three times a year (March-April, June-July, and October-November) to taste wines. The group tastes a selection of six wines each time. The tastings are blind. They are usually, but not always, based on a single grape or region (e.g., Zinfandel, Chardonnay, Chianti).

We are almost done with our tastings for October and November. We are tasting Cotes du Rhone. We have not done this variety since 2003.

If you would like to join the wine tasting group, email Jim Slack at [Public@Termineigh.com](mailto:Public@Termineigh.com).

# Help Wanted

## New Wine Tasting Chair Needed

At this Wednesday's (7 October 2015) Newcomers' meeting, Jim Slack announced that he had been the chair of the wine tasting group for three years. It is time for someone else to lead the group. He will resign as the chair at the end of this tasting round. He said he has very thoroughly enjoyed leading the group. He said the Newcomers' wine tasters have been an excellent and pleasant group to work with. Please consider taking over as the chair of this group.

## Pinochle Club



Two additional members will be observing and trying out pinochle this month. We hope to interest another couple as four handed partner play is easier to play than three handed single play. We play once a month on Wednesday afternoon and alternate who hosts.

Last month I explained the meld and how the meld helps one to decide how high they might bid to be able to call the trump suit. Now I will explain bidding and the trump suit.

The difference between the meld of the partners (explained last month) is the number of points that must be earned by "taking the trick". The bidding begins at 50 and goes up by 1 until 60; thereafter bidding is by increments of 5. For instance, if a player has 75 points in his hand, he could bid up to 95 or 100 which means the partners must win 20 or 25 points. The players may decide to go much higher in bidding, if certain cards from their partner can help them with more meld; (i.e., double run, or double aces, kings, queens or jacks.)

There are many variations of playing the game, and the one we decided on allows the partners who win the bid to pass two cards to each other. The partner who makes the highest bid asks for two specific cards from his partner. (The first card requested is usually in the trump suit). If the partner has those two cards, he passes them. If he does not have them he passes cards he hopes will help his partner. The partner should pass something that may help his partner with more meld points, or help fill in the trump suit.

The winning bidder then calls the trump, gives two cards from his hand to his partner, and lays down the meld he holds. The partner does the same, as do the other players. Only the trump

suit called by the winning bidder is trump. The meld points are added up and written down. Next month I will explain the play of cards and winning or losing the hand.

If you think you might be interested in learning to play this easy game, call me.

Marilou Schindler 291-2992



**BUNKO!**

Come roll with the Bunko ladies! We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in learning to play, being a player, or sub, please contact Sharon Littley at [slittley@gmu.edu](mailto:slittley@gmu.edu) or [793-625-0870](tel:793-625-0870) for more information.

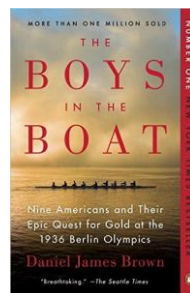


**Canasta Group**

Canasta meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. Anyone interested in joining or being a sub, please contact Cynthia Tucker, 540-463-3344 or [cmtucker@comcast.net](mailto:cmtucker@comcast.net).

### **Fourth Thursday Book Club**

The Fourth Thursday Book Club will hold its annual book selection meeting on November 20, 2015. The meeting will begin with lunch at The Livery at 12:00 p.m. and be followed by the selection of books. Each member should have two books for consideration. For now, this group is full and closed to new members.



### **Fourth Thursday II Book Club**

The purpose of this book club is to share our love of literature and enjoy the variety of literary tastes (fiction and non-fiction) brought to the table by our fellow members.

At the October meeting we discussed *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West* by Stephen E. Ambrose. While Ambrose is readily recognized as a popular historian, many do not know that he has a PhD from the University of Wisconsin and was a lifelong professor of history at the University of New Orleans. Most do not know that he was accused of plagiarism in many of his books, including *Undaunted Courage*. Regardless, Ambrose presents a lively and entertaining tale of the Lewis and Clarke expedition, 1803-1806.

Ambrose liberally utilizes the actual texts from the journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clarke. While this adds authenticity to the narrative, it also makes the reading more laborious as the spelling of the pair do not adhere to modern conventions and challenges the reader. Frequent reference to Thomas Jefferson also adds to the substance of the narrative. The book club members generally were very positive about the book despite its 500-page length.

The November meeting will be held at JoAnn Toner's home where Mike Quarles will lead the discussion for *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we always have our November meeting on the second Thursday of the month.



## Yoga Group



The Newcomers' Yoga group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 in the Fitness Center at Kendal. The Center is

down the hill and behind the main building, but we are requested to park our cars in the guest parking lot, anywhere on the circle.

Our class is appropriate to all levels, and individual needs are addressed with modifications. Bring your mat, wear some comfy clothes, and join us for an hour of gentle stretching, conditioning and strengthening in a union of mind, body and spirit.

Please call Helen Moore at 850-240-5619 if you have any questions.



*Sherando Lake*

## Hiking Group

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. If you would like to be on the email list just email Don Brooke, [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com), or Debbie Maurer, [mountaintoppers@exede.net](mailto:mountaintoppers@exede.net).

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Yoga
- 6 Hiking Group
- 10 Yoga
- 11 Pinochle
- 12 *Back Home on the Farm Tea*
- 13 Hiking Group
- 17 Yoga
- 20 Hiking Group
- 21 *Poplar Forest Wine Festival*
- 24 Yoga
- 24 Canasta
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 Hiking Group

### DECEMBER

- 1 Yoga
- 2 **No Club Meeting**
- 4 Hiking Group
- 5 **Holiday Party**
- 8 Yoga
- 8 *Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden*
- 9 Pinochle
- 10 *A Cup of Christmas Cheer Tea*
- 11 Hiking Group
- 15 Yoga
- 18 Hiking Group
- 22 Yoga
- 29 Yoga

***OCTOBER NEWCOMERS OUTINGS***



*Tour of Richmond*



*Fall Harvest Tea*

***MANY MORE PHOTOS FROM  
RECENT NEWCOMER ACTIVITIES,  
INCLUDING OKTOBERFEST, WILL  
BE ONLINE SOON AT THE  
NEWCOMERS WEBPAGE  
<http://lexvanewcomers.org/>***